SHOW ON TELEVISION

THE STRANGEST | FRANCINE STOCK'S ADVENTURES IN

Yehudi Menuhin: 1916-1999

Straw to act over crisis on adoption

tough line over obstructive social workers who are blocking the chances for adoption of thousands of children in council-run homes. Although 55,000 children are in local authority care, the number of adoptions has slumped from 21,000 in the Seventies to just 2,000 a year.

Children growing up in coun--run bomes are much more kely than other young people to obtain no educational qualifications, become jobless, sleep rough or end up in prison. One in four teenage girls in care becomes pregnant, and surveys suggest their babies are 66 times more likely to end up in care than other children. There is also a growing body

of evidence that adopted children enjoy better life prospects, with 80 per cent of adoptions udged a success. Now ministers want to end

the anti-adoption culture. They blame social workers for being "anti-adoption" and using it as "an option of last resort". Local authority leaders

admit that the education of children in their charge has to issue "league tables" of counbeen neglected. One in four Lioes not attend school regularly and the same percentage leave care with no qualifications in some areas. A recent survey suggested that four out of 10 authorities have no information about performance of pupils in care; two-thirds had no idea how they did in national tests.

The Independent has learnt that growing concern in the even a private company. Government has persuaded the cabinet committee on the family, chaired by Jack Straw,

arlton

In the short term, ministers will order councils to regard adoption as "a positive option". They will he forced to publish figures on the number of young people in care and the number of adoptions, allowing the Government



'It nearly split up our marriage' -One couple's battle against bineaueracy

cils reluctant to help children to find a new family.

In the long term, the cabinet committée will consider drastic action against authorities which continue to shun adoptions without good reason. Privately, ministers say these could include handing control of adoption to a neighbouring authority, voluntary agency, or

Mr Straw's group will consider the need for a new Adoption Act aimed at ending the the Home Secretary, to launch delays in the current system.

Manager of Lennox

Lewis in tax inquiry

BY HILARY CLARKE

AND STEVE BOGGAN

by the Inland Revenue, the De-

partment of Social Security

Eliades reportedly sank film

tered Accountants (ICA).

(DSS) and the Institute of Char-

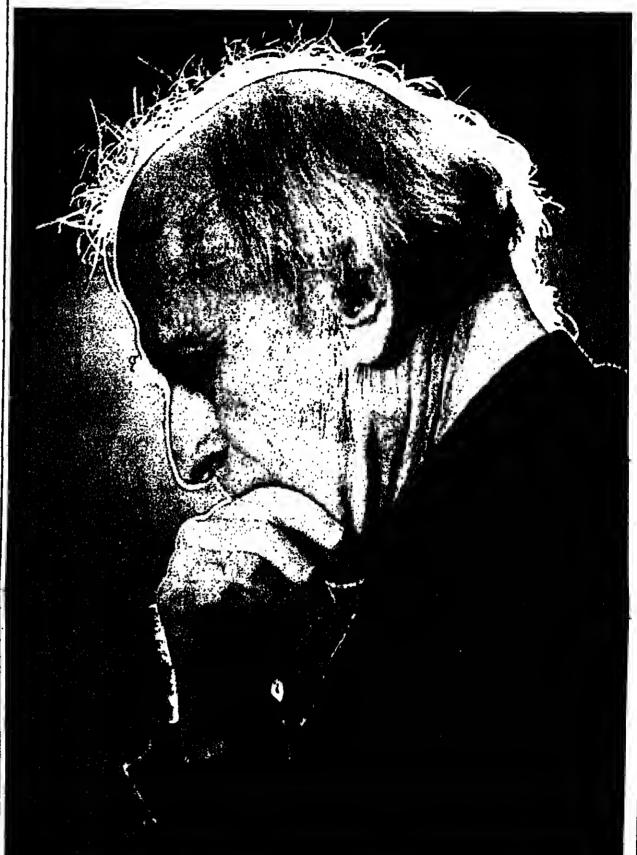
As well as improving the life chances of problem children, ministers believe that more adoption would save money. It costs more than £1,100 a week to keep a child in care.

The Government is under pressure to act from an all-party group of MPs who have accused councils of being more concerned with "preserving their own empires" than the welfare of children, Julian Brazier, Tory MP for Canterbury and organiser of the group, said: "The figures are shocking. Children leaving care are 50 times more likely than their peers to go to prison, four times more likely more likely to be homeless and 88 times more likely to be drug abusers. The provision of a loving home would reduce these problems considerably."

Frank Field, the former social security minister, said: "Adoption would mean a better life for most of these children. Local voters should ask councils why they need to keep such a large number of children in care."

John Ransford, head of social services at the Local Government Association, denied the charge of "empire building". He said: "The key issue is what is best for the child. In adootions, you must make sure that you get the match right, or it can go disastrously wrong for the child and the family.

Mr Ransford conceded that councils had not given enough priority to the education of children in care. "Not enough effort has been put into improving



Lord Menuhin, who died yesterday, was 'one of the greatest musicians of his age'

violin in a manner which made Einstein believe in god. At the age of 82 he was still conducting in concert halls across the world.

sistent criminal offenders, truants and children expelled from ordinary schools. However, after three years of hand-to-mouth funding, the college closed last July and is Symphony Orchestra. now being used as a gym for

professional, adult boxers. Mr Eliades, an accountant, is being investigated by the ICA after complaints from Continued on page 3

AT THE age of 12 he played the BY DAVID LISTER **Arts News Editor**

ucator whose school in Britain Yehudi Menuhin died of a heart attack yesterday in hospital in Berlin, where he had travelled to conduct the Warsaw Last night world leaders paid tribute to a man who was not

only one of the most gifted vihim and declared: "Now I know olinists who ever lived but also a passionate campaigner for humanitarian causes and an ed-

produced its own virtuosos. He played his first public concert at the age of seven in the United States. Five years later, in Berlin, when Menubin was just a few days short of his 13th birthday, Albert Einstein followed him backstage, hugged

there is a god in Heaven!" Menuhin was best known for definitive recordings of the Beethoven and Elgar violin conhe became a British citizen in

certos. His longevity at the high-1985. He was ennobled in 1993. est level is illustrated by a Just before Christmas he picture of the young violinist was promoting music teaching playing Elgar's concerto for the in British schools because he composer. More than once he inbelieved it could play a vital role troduced to the public works by in civilising society. famous composers. Bela Bartok, Tony Blair said yesterday:

"Yehudi Memuhin... will be refor instance, wrote the Sonata for Violin especially for him. membered the world over as Menuhin lived in London one of the greatest musicians of his age," with his second wife, the ballerina Diana Gould, with whom Genius of the violin, page 3

Leading article, Review, page 3; Obituary, Review, page 10 **¥**THE INDEPENDENT

More sales, more success

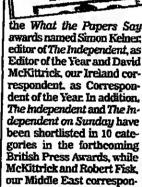
THE LATEST monthly circulation figures for national newspapers, published yes-terday, show that The Independent, alone among broadsheet newspapers, has registered a rise on the same period last year.

The Independent's daily circulation for February is 220,203, rising from 219,549 in January and an increase of 1.7 per cent on February 1998. The same year-on-year comparison shows The Times down 6.9 per cent, The Daily Telegraph down 2.5 per cent and The Guardian down 1 per cent.

The Independent on Sunday's February figure of 252,105 also shows a year-onyear rise of 1.8 per cent. This is the first time in

three years (excluding the period covering the death of Diana, Princess of Wales) that The Independent has shown year-on-year circulation gains, and comes at a time of unprecedented success for the paper's journal-





dent, have also been shortlisted for the prestigious Orwell prize for outstanding journalism. Our circulation gains have

reflected the investment made in both papers by Independent Newspapers (UK) since it acquired the titles exactly a year ago. The addition of a new sports section every Monday and a business review supplement on Wednesdays illustrates the paper's commitment to a continuing programme of pansion and improvement

We would like to thank readers for their continuing support.

Lewis tonight in New York as he The Lennox Lewis College bids to become the undisputed was opened in 1995 to help problem children in the East heavyweight champion of the world. At home, however, the End of London, where Lewis manager's running of the colwas born. The boxer and Mr

lege is the subject of inquiries

LENNOX LEWIS'S business

manager is at the centre of in-

quiries into missing tax and pa-

tional insurance contributions at

a college set up by the boxer to

help underprivileged children.

Panos Eliades will he with

INSIDE THIS SECTION A challenge by the killers of James Bulger is to he heard in the Human Rights Court

Heathrow inquiry closing After 500 days and £80m, the Terminal 5 inquiry is ending

Pusztal: GM peas are safe Scientist sacked for his comments on GM food says modified peas are harmless

Murderer gets life Killer who encased victim's head in concrete is jailed Home P11.

New German minister Hans Eichel is the successor to Oskar Lafontaine as Germany's Finance Minister Foreign P13

Trouble in paradise St Lucia is the innocent victim of the US banana war Foreign P15

Warburg's £430m loss Warburg, the investment bank, has lost £430m in m hedge funds dealing

The Final Match? Steve McManaman may have played his last for Liverpool Sport P32

INSIDE THE REVIEW

America's head girl The Republican party's presidential candidate Elizabeth Dole

Two Cultures Arts versus science: the great debate continues

Kicking Kerouac The Beat Generation is more hip than ever. Pity they got so much wrong

he had two sons. He received

an honorary knighthood in 1965,

but could not use the title until

The week in review The critics' view of the week's big film and theatre openings Arts P13





Now boarding, Gate closed, Now boarding, Gate closed, Now boarding, Gate closed

Shuttle flights. No-one departs more frequently.

BRITISH AIRWAYS The world's favourite airline

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

It seems quite extraordinary, since we are indeed now living at peace with our old friends the Argentinians, a magnificent, diverse people, that we should be making our pirate prince strut about embarrassingly and lay claim to the Malvinas.9 AN Wilson on Prince Charles the Pirate

THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING ALAIN DE BOTTON, SIMON SINGH, DAVID THOMSON, JEREMY CLARKE, ROY HATTERSLEY, BRIAN VINER, JOAN SMITH, GILBERT ADAIR, MICHAEL BYWATER, CAPTAIN MOONLIGHT AND WALLACE ARNOLD

Childless families: Couples who yearned for the chance to adopt describe the obstacles that were put in their way

Adoption process 'nearly destroyed us'

"IT NEARLY split up our marnature of the adoption system. After five years of bad luck and battering against what seemed like an uncaring bureaucracy,

they simply gave up. We just agreed that it would be the end," says Richard Titford, the vicar of Edwardstone near Sudbury in Suffolk. "It made us think we didn't want anything else. We had at least got each other, and thought we must just get on with being

a child abroad and finally adopt-Salvador eight years ago. But even then problems with the British authorities did not end.

very deep-rooted in the British psyche about adoption, as though it is not really very proper," said Mr Titford, 53. This shows itself in a dead hand that puts the mockers on everything, as if all the time the authorities are trying to make things difficult."

Their story is instructive, both in terms of the lengths to which couples are prepared to go to become parents and in the insensitivity that can be shown

Following unsuccessful treatment for infertility, the Titfords registered with a private adoption agency. All seemed to be going well until the agency folded, and they were referred to Redbridge social services. Im- to the British Embassy and mediately there developed problems between Mr Titford and she found. The consul was rude the social worker assigned to and arrogant towards her local them, which seemed to have tion as a clergyman and the suggestion that they would not be able to cope with the older kind of child they would be likely to

"It was just unreal," says Mrs Titford, 48. "She once the child said "F... off" at the

for not ringing up enough to find out how things were going, straw came when they forgot to profound lack of commitment.

"In the end it was sort of constructive dismissal. There was be allowed to adopt a child wife Sarah decided to look for through them so we left," says social worker rang up to say up, she would be very interitish authorities did not end. ested in letting me adopt a "I think there is something child on my own. What an incredible thing to say."

Already at a very vulnerable stage in the process of trying to have children, they were left feeling wretched. "What's so terrible is that we are not an isolated case," says Mrs Titford. "We were made to feel no good

Once they had heard of the possibility of adopting Lucie, they waited nine months for the British authorities to come up pers. But by the time that they had become legal parents of the child under El Salvador law. there was still no movement, so Mrs Titford went out anyway.

Once there she went for help was horrified by the attitudes lawyer, and the whole idea of missed as having to take at least another six months. Sarah was told that if she arrived at the airport without the right papers then Lucie would be sent back.

"The whole thing was just appalling to me. They were asked him how he would feel if trying to frighten us," she says. After a nervous flight, Mrs Tithreakfast table. She was just on ford and Lucie were allowed in



Richard and Sarah Titford with their adopted daughter Lucie; the Titfords were forced to seek a child where after they ran into problems with the British adoption system

to adopt Lucie under British law went ahead unimpeded.

The attitudes they encountered on the way, however, can translate directly into suffering for children in care. Delays in the system mean that children can spend years being damaged in a series of residential

Research by the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (Baff) shows huge variations in the practices of different local authorities. While some place 10 per cent of eligible children in adoption families every year, for others the figure is as low as 0.5 per cent. The organisation is pushing for or foster homes when a per-

to Britain by a sympathetic cus-manent family could have been changes in legislation to ease care five times in their little years' time he could be slash-know they will always have to

lishment of national standards. "Robert", now six years old, is a typically sad example of the situation. He was placed on the "at risk" register at birth due to concerns for his elder sister. But it is only now that the two children have finally been of-

fered for adoption. They have already been in

LIGHTING UP

6.23pm 6.07pm 6.11pm 6.15pm 6.01pm 6.08pm 5.05pm

HIGH TIDES

AIR OUALITY

6.42am 6.25am 6.26am 6.35am 6.18am 6.27am 6.25am

berg, 42, from south London, who has been fostering children with her husband for 10 years and who looked after the broth-

er and sister herself. "By the age of six you have already produced such insecurity." says Mrs Vandenberg. "He used to scratch himself raw to attract attention, and in five

There are also sleeping dis-

orders and anti-social behaviour so that he has no friends at school."

They had been to four different schools already, each time forming and breaking bonds with their teachers. eventually unwilling to make any attachments because they

adult that isn't going to betray them, until they find these magic adopters," says Mrs Vandenberg, who has just adopted two of her former foster charges to join her own two children. "They then have to spend years trying to undo all the damage that has been done to

1 578 8

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"Saving the 'Private Ryans' of this world is one thing, looking after them for the rest of their lives is quite another".

As a war correspondent I've seen, first hand, the appalling mental pressures our Armed Forces endure. leaving thousands of them mentally crippled for life.

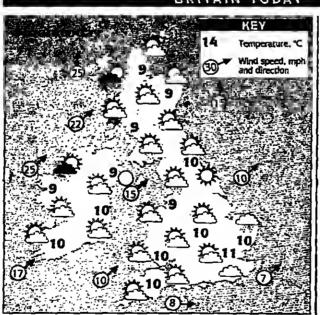
Combat Stress helps care for these victims by providing them with support in the community together with treatment and respite care in one of its three nursing homes.

Unfortunately, caring for them doesn't come cheap these days, it all costs money. Something Combat Stress is short of. Please help. A donation (no matter how small) can make such a difference to those who have given so much.

Thank you.

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY find enclosed my donation for: £50 🔲 £20 🔲 £10 🔲 £5 🔲 £....

Department Ind2. Broadway House Tel: 0181 543 6333 http://www.



FORECAST

Lordon, SE England, E Anglia, E England: Showery rain this morning, but it will become dry by the afternoon with some lengthy summy periods. A fight south I. Max temp 10-12C (50-54F). Charmel Is, Cest S England, Midlands, Cent N & NE England: Any overnight showers will de out to leave some decent sunny spells. A light westerly wind. Mattern 9-11C (48-52F).

SW & NW England, Wales, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: There may be an exclated shower across the hills but most places will stay dry with plenty of sunny spells. A light south-westerly wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F). d, Ediaburgh: Becoming mainly dry with some good sunny spells. A buth-westerly wind. Max temp 7-90 (45-48F). NE Scotland, Aberdeen, N Isles: Some sunshine at first, but an increasing showers. A fresh south to south-westerly wind, Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

NW 4 SW Soutland, Glasgow, W Isles: The south will have suriny spells but showers in the north-west will extend southwards by alternoon. A moderate to fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F). N training: Showers in the north and west but mainly dry with sunny spells else where. A moderate south-westerly wind. Max temp 9-11C (48-52F).

OUTLOOK

Early must and fog will clear to leave most of the UK dry and mild with lengthy sunny periods tomorrow. However, rain will edge into Northern Ireland and west orn Scotland later. Monday will continue mild and mainly bright, but the north and west will have some rain.

TR A
London: A12 Green Man Roundabout.
Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new
M11 link road. Until 31st December.
Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on
Avormouth Andge, Until 23rd June 2001.
Warwictishine: M42 Between J10 Tamorith
senoes and J9 Sution Coldifield Roadworks
and centreflow. Until 23rd April.
South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsky
Vladuct (A6109) 8. J34 Tinsky Vladuct
(A6178). Sheffield. Carriageway is reduced
to two lanes aouthbound. Until 21st
November 2000.

Chettenham. Closed due to roedworks intound. Diversions in place. Until fat June. Co. Anthim: A1 Kingsway. Dummurray. Readworks, various lane restrictions. Until and the second s

SUN & MOON WEATHERLINE

YESTERDAY EXTREMES Coldest (day): Lockboisdate 5C (43F) Mettest: Eskmeals 6.0 mm est: Ulbster 6.2 las

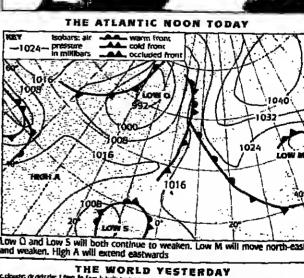
Weston-s-mare 0.5 0.3 9 48 IA hours to 6pm (GMT) Thursday: information by PA WeatherCentre RAIN OR

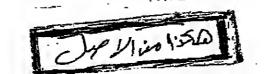
SHINE

POPOCATEPETL, the volcano near Mexico City, is spouting ash, vapour and red-hot rock, civil defence authorities in the region said yesterday. At least one explosion erupted from the mountain yesterday, and although incandescent rock fell on the upper slopes of

Popocatepetl - Aztec for "smok-ing mountain" - the National Centre for Disaster Prevention said there were no reports of ash falling on nearby communities.

THE WORLD





THE INDEPINDENT Murday 13 March 1999 JEREMY CLARKE, WALLACE ARNOLD e put in their way

Genius who spread his gift red us to youth of the world

TO UNDERSTAND Yehudi Menuhin's love of music and his legacy, one has only to look at next month's concert programme at Birmingham's Symphony Hall.

Lord Menuhin was due to conduct three concerts there. Called, all too ironically, "My Life in Music: Reflections on an Unfinished Journey", the series was also to be introduced by him. The man who loved to communicate his own passion for music was to give a talk to the audiences reminiscing about his life, recalling the musicians he had known and discussing the music itself.

But even more pertinently, each concert would have featured music for the violin played under his baton by artists he had nominated and whose career he had influenced - from the 12-year-old protégé Nicola Benedetti to Rainer Kuchl, leader of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Lord Menuhin leaves a lega-

structure of music education . riety and intellect. that has already produced the British virtuosos Nigel

It was 30 years ago that he, the way he just and the way founded his school in Surrey to viewed death. His own wishes provide tuition for musically for the way this passage should gifted children from all over the be marked "are based on the world. He set up the school because he was conscious of the bank. My preference is for difficulties that children faced when studying music while attending a normal school. He also ensured there were schol-

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Marine Spine Brand Andrews

THE WORLD

The same with the self-

arships and "aided places". Menuhin was born in April 1916, in New York, of Russian-Jewish parents. He astonished a San Francisco audience at the age of seven with a début violin performance. It was at his first concert in Berlin, just a few days short of his 13th birthday, that Albert Einstein followed Menuhin backstage, hugged him and declared: "Now I know there is a God in heaven!"

London with his second wife. the ballerina Diana Gould, with whom he had two sons.

He received an honorary knighthood in 1965, but could not use the title until he became a British citizen in 1985. He became a lord in 1993.

His first marriage, in 1938, was to Nola Nicholas, the 19year-old daughter of an Aus-

tralian millionaire. In the late 1940s, Menuhin defied personal attacks to play for the Germans in Berlin. He did so, he said, to further tolerance and "the brotherhood of man".

His classical works were received rapturously wherever he went. But he was not afraid to experiment with different repertories, playing with artists from the sitar master, Ravi Shankar, to the virtuoso jazz violinist Stéphane Grappelli.

More than once he introduced to the public works by famous composers. Bela Bartok, for instance, wrote Sonata for Violin especially for him. His listening tastes, likewise, were not confined to the highbrow. He was an admirer of the early Beatles music, but was knocked offbalance by a Rolling Stones concert. "I am no longer sure music is a universal language," he said sadly, complaining the cy for young musicians - a music was devoid of subtlety va-

Deeply spiritual, Menuhin was a follower of Indian mysti-Kennedy and Tasmin Little. cism, which influenced both idea of a happy picnic on a river whatever will reunite me most quickly with the sources of life, accompanied by folk music and dance ... Back to the earth, under a tree, or in a river, that is what I choose".

He was a devotee of yoga. Yesterday Ewen Balfour, a former official with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, of which Menuhin was president, recalled that he used to plan Menuhin's daily timetable with the violinist beside him in a headstand posture.

Just before Christmas, Menuhin was promoting music Menuhin lived in central teaching in schools in Britain, stressing that it could play a vital role in civilising society. "Art reflects the refinement of a civilisation," he said. "Music goes both ways. You make your-self heard and listen to others."

Sir Colin Davis, principal conductor with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted him playing both the Beethoven and Elgar violin con-



With Sir Edward Elgar in 1932 after recording Elgar's violin concerto in London

certos. He said yesterday: "He will be remembered with great affection by young musicians. He has done an enormous amount for music education and put a lot of money into it.

"I had the good fortune to work with Yehudi when I was a young man. I remember most clearly the Beethoven violin concerto. Nobody has played it like that since. He had this poise. And he would submerge himself entirely in the music. He seemed to be able to eliminate his ego in all respects."

Humphrey Burton, a former head of music for BBC television who is writing a biography

40 years and described him as "He was also a remarkable conductor and musicians loved

"The last thing he did was dictate letters from his hospital bed on Tuesday and the last was to Gordon Brown congratulating him on his Budget."

The Secretary of State for Culture, Chris Smith, said: "Yehudi Menuhin used his genius for music as a force for good to forge links across the globe. ... We are honoured he adopted British citizenship."

after being made redundant a year ago. He said: "At least five

of the nine teachers have ex-

perienced similar problems

with their tax and National In-

The college taught vocational

subjects such as plumbing and

music technology. Lewis, 33,

who had himself been exclud-

ed from primary school, had

Team Solo Management Ltd

little hands-on involvement.

surance contributions."

First violin to the nation

I WENT TO the Yehudi Menuhin School when I was eight. Nigel Kennedy was the top boy in the school. He was 16 and used to tweak my hair and give me

Yehudi and I remember thinking what a nice face he had. I also remember the first time be visited the school when I was

I thought he would be in an expensive suit with a bow tie and looking impressive and imposing. When he came he was wearing an old cardigan and a pair of very ordinary trousers and was very small.

Yehudi could put the pupils at their ease completely. Whenever he came to the school he would hear every violinist. When I was 16 I was studying

breeds the mentality of a

The school has come in for

from the truth or the ethos of I asked him what he was writthe school. Playing chamber music together was absolutely In the last couple of years

I've seen more of Yehudi than ever before. He was a fantastic dinner companion. I remember a dinner in Warsaw. He chose and drank excel-

lent wines but ate very spar-Bach's Chaconne. He took my ingly, vegetables and pulses, and regaled us with wonderful violin and he played this most wonderful music on it. And stories. Then he turned to my husband, Michael Hatch, a when I was 17 I needed to raise £5,000 to buy a violin. I recording engineer, and startmentioned this to him and the ed talking to him about comnext day he sent me a letter of puters and recommendation I could use. developments.

Yehudi seemed to be the master of everything. criticism as a hothouse that ""On the way home on the aeroplane he started writing on

ing and he said: 'Oh, il's just my ideas for a solution to the Northern Ireland crisis. Women are the solution; they will sort it out,' he said. He wanted the wives of people who had been killed to band together.

I will remember him for his incredible expressiveness and depth of emotion. He expressed a lot of love in his playing. Audiences loved the human side of his playing and even, as he got older, the fallibility.

He was one of the best violinists that ever lived and one of the most profound musicians. But he was also an educator, an ambassador and a diplomat for music.

The violinist Tasmin Little.



14TH MARCH. GO ON, SPOIL HER ON MOTHER'S DAY.



Hunt for missing Lewis cash

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

three former teachers at the school who were made redundant only to find they could not claim benefits because their National Insurance contributions and income tax payments - which had been deducted from their wages at the college -had not been passed on to the authorities.

The institute confirmed yesterday that it was "actively investigating" Mr Eliades. Correspondence seen by The Independent shows that he is rejecting allegations of professional misconduct.

However, once the ICA began looking into the lecturers' complaints, Mr Eliades told the institute's investigator, Nigel Howell, that the college's staff were actually employed by another company - Team Sole Management Ltd - which was suppo. od to pay their salaries. Bank records show that



Panos Eliades 'too busy' to comment on allegations

ades was the sole director. deed transferred from an ac- been unable to locate any pacount at Barclays in the name of Team Solo Management Ltd. monies to the Inland Revenue." with that company, said Mr Eliades, and he was not a shareholder in it. But the address to which bank statements for Team Solo Management were sent was: "Panos Eliades Ltd, 6 Bloomsbury Square, London."

The college was run by
Team Solo Ltd, of which Mr Eli-salaries for the 16 staff were in-Mr Panes told the ICA: "I have

Responsibility for wages rested : Exactly how much money has gone astray is not known. The DSS has confirmed that a specialist unit is trying to locate the contributions made by staff.

tian & Co, refused to pass these perwork relating to payment of accounts because they felt Mr Eliades, an accountant, had not

Kevin Grice, 43, the former been made but he was "too deputy principal of the college, busy" in New York to comment is one of three teachers who

was wound up last June, while Mr Eliades' sports promotion company, Panix Promotions Ltd, which was underwriting the operation with Lewis, was running a £666,000 deficit. according to accounts for 1998. Panix's auditors, Lee Chris-

given them enough information. A spokeswoman at Panos Eliades, Franklin & Co, Mr Eliades' insolvency practice, said that many false allegations had

Bulger killers to launch appeal

LAWYERS ACTING for the By IAN BURRELL schoolboy killers of James Bul- Home Affairs Correspondent ger have won a significant victwo boys was a breach of their human rights.

A ruling by the European in Strasbourg, to be made public next week, will allow Robert Thompson and Jon Venables now both 17 - leave to appeal against their convictions.

The case will then be considered by the European Court of Human Rights, the highest court in Europe.

If judges rule the boys' human rights have been breached they could move that the whole trial was unlawful.

Although the UK government has powers to derogate rulings of the court, it would find it difficult not to accept such a ruling, which would mean that Thomas, one, married Stuart the law would have to change in regard to juveniles being tried in adult courts.

The two boys: solicitors have always argued that their trial was "degrading and inhumane" because it was held in an adult court. They also claimed the 15- in the most horrific and despiyear sentences imposed on Thompson and Venables by the then home secretary, Michael Howard, were illegal. The law lords ruled in June 1997 that Mr Howard acted unlawfully.

A detailed report on the case, which will be published on Monday, will be considered by a 19-strong panel of judges. It may be two or three years before a decision is made.

James was two years old when he was abducted from the Strand Shopping Centre in Bootle. Merseyside, on 12 February 1993. His body was discovered two days later on a railway line

tory in their efforts to have the repeatedly beaten. Thompson convictions overturned after and Venables, who were just 10 complaining that the trial of the years old at the time, were arrested days later. They were convicted of James'a murder after a three-week trial at Commission for Human Rights Preston Crown Court in No-

Both boys have been detained at secure accommodation ever since.

Thompson's solicitor, Dominic Lloyd, said yesterday he was unable to comment on the case until Monday. No one was available for comment from Venables' defence team.

At her home in Kirkby, Merseyside, James Bulger's mother, Denise Fergus, criticised the decision to allow the boys' legal challenge.

Mrs Fergus, 31, who has two children, Michael, four, and Fergus last September after divorcing James's father Ralph Bulger. She said: "No one should forget the vile and monstrous crimes these two committed when they abducted James and killed him. They murdered him cable way imaginable, and they cannot deny that.

"Nothing can bring James back and nothing can wipe out what they did. To say they were degraded, or that their trial was inhumane, is ridiculous.

"All this legal wrangling is sickening. They are trying to get off on technicalities and it is time the British legal system and the Government stood up to Europe on this."

Rex Makin, Ralph Bulger's lawyer, said: "Every time there is movement in this case it is a re-activation of the wound and the grief that Ralph suffers in nearby Walton. He had been from the loss of his child."



Kate Buckell, a member of the Alliance for Workers' Liberty and the probable next president of the NUS

Far left set to win NUS

to win the presidency of the three million-strong National Union of Students next week, ending 16 years of Labour control. Kate Buckell, a member of the Alliance for Workers' Liberty, is the favourite to take the

in Blackpool on Tuesday. Ms Buckell is standing on the Education, a group that has been described by Labour's Millbank headquarters as a Ms Buckell in recent days.

A HARD LEFT candidate is set By PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

"front organisation" for various far-left factions. The 25-year-old former Lancaster University student, came within 15 votes of winning the presidency from post when elections are held at Labour last year, but is the union's annual conference expected to heat Labour's Andrew Pakes this year.

In a sign that the Labour ticket of the Campaign for Free Party nationally is nervous of a left-wing victory, party officials have begun briefing against

In her manifesto, Ms Buck-future of the NUS because it will ell states that she wants "a strategy of direct action and non-payment" to smash the the Eighties." Government's system of forcing students to take out loans the CFE, said that Ms Buckell's

for tuition fees. The Campaign for Free Education has so far for Labour and a boost for organised sit-ins and occupations in several colleges and universities across the country and Labour sources claim that it is intent on a campaign of dis-

ruption of campuses.

lose all credibility if it turches to the left, like trade unions in

However, Mick Duncan, of election would be a "disaster" most students, who had endured 16 years of the party's acquiescence to cuts in student grants. "It would be a disaster, for Tony Blair and David Blunkett who would have students

Tourist wins £1.2m for pub accident

A DUTCH tourist whose hopes By JAN COLLEY of a brilliant career ended after she suffered hrain damage when a pub menu blackboard fell on to her head, won £1.2m damages in the High Court yesterday.

Tessel Van Oudenhoven's intellect was perfectly preserved and she appeared to be perfectly normal, said Mr Jus-tice Wright. But her cognitive function had been subtly disturbed, so she was now operating at a far less effective level that before the accident, which happened in the Rugby Tavern, Great James Street, London, in 1991. The civil engineer, who has not worked since 1996, had complete insight into her disability and could compare it with how she was before. "As a result, very un-derstandably, she is angry, frustrated and distressed, and I think is undoubtedly very obsessive about what she perceives she has lost," the judge

Her emotional state unher balancing mechanism. though no more than at the lower end of moderate in severity, has nevertheless had a disproportionate impact upon her cognitive abilities and consequentially a catastrophic effect upon her career and earnings prospects."

The damages with costs were awarded against Griffin Inns Ltd, of Chiswick, west London, which had admitted liability hut contested the amount of damages. Lawyers for the company had alleged Miss Van Oudenhoven, 31, who lives in Amsterdam, had exaggerated the consequences of her injury, which they dismissed as a minor laceration to her scalp. The judge said the view the company's lawyers took of the incident was indicated by the fact that their admitted figure for special damages was limited to £10 representing the cost of taxi

Hospital on the night of the ac-

Miss Van Oudenhoven was a top student at the Technical University of Delft when, for an unexplained reason, the "substantial piece of timber" fell 18in and struck her edge-on, said the judge. Her professor described her as a "brilliant and active student". But after her return to Holland she appeared withdrawn, apathetic, confused and unclear in her speech. Her graduation was delayed by a year but she still qualified with distinction.

Her ambition was to work in management in one of the major multi-nationals but. in view of her own perceived difficulties, she lowered her sights and obtained a job as a project engineer with a Dutch consultant engineering firm.

Three years later, in 1996, after a 10-month assignment in Colombia, Miss Van Oudenhoven was exhausted and dedoubtedly aggravated the neck scribed herself as a "complete and back pain from which she mess". She resigned because suffered from time to time, and, she was not coping with the level of endurance required for "The brain injury itself, al- the job and had not met the high levels expected by her em-

She had not worked since, although she had made strenuous efforts to discover what was wrong with her and obtain appropriate treatment.

Dismissing the allegation of fabrication, the judge said he could not accept that this highly intelligent and successful graduate would have so exaggerated the consequences of her accident as to give up her chances of obtaining the work she wanted in order to inflate her claim for damages.

"I am satisfied that the general level of her complaints, particularly about her cognitive disabilities, is genuine"

The judge awarded Miss Van Oudenhoven £35,000, plus interest, for pain, suffering and loss of amenity and around £200,000 for loss of earnings so far. The bulk of the award was A Millbank source said: accept totion fees. Students are fares back from the casualty de made up of compensation for furthis woman is a danger to the sick of years of cuts, he said partment at St Bartholomew's ture loss of earnings.

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Menson killing: man charged with murder and conspiracy

AN UNEMPLOYED man, aged By Jason Bennetto 25, appeared in court yesterday charged with the murder of the black musician Michael

Mario Pereira, of Edmonton, north London, a British national of Mauritian origin, was also charged with conspiring to pervert the cause of justice. He was remanded in custody to reappear in court later this

Mr Menson, 30, was set alight in a street in Edmonton in January 1997. He died two weeks later.

Menson, who had a history of also with conspiring to pervert to himself and only reinvesti- fore 9 March 1999. gated the case after cam-

Crime Correspondent

paigning by the family and friends of the dead man. Mr Pereira yesterday ap-

peared before Enfield magistrates in north London, where he will next appear on 18 During the hour-long hearing, attended by five of Mr

the defendant spoke only to confirm his pame. Mr Pereira is charged with the murder of Mr Menson on or Police initially believed Mr before 13 February 1997, and

Menson's brothers and sisters,

psychiatric illness, had set fire the course of justice on or be-Reporting restrictions re-

IN BRIEF

MORE THAN 1,500 inmates absconded from open prisons in the past two years and 226 are still at large, the Home Office admitted yesterday. While on the run, they committed 291 crimes, including 12 assaults, 14 drugs

Murder investigation goes to dogs DETECTIVES INVESTIGATING the murders of a dog breeder and her mother will today visit the Crufts dog show

in Birmingham in the search for clues. Janice Sheridan, 45,

and her mother Counie, 79, were found stabbed to death at their home in Upwell, Norfolk, two months ago.

Fish could face sunburn peril

OZONE-LAYER thinning could lead to fish suffering

sunburn symptoms. Plymouth's Marine Laboratory

simulated levels of extra solar radiation expected over

the next 50 years. Lighter-coloured and flat fish were

Falklands reporter dies, aged 47

FORMER ITN reporter Jeremy Hands, hest known for his

hospital after being taken ill. The cause of death is as yet unknown. Mr Hands, 47, lived in Norfolk with his second

Cinema admissions fall 17 per cent

CINEMAS HAVE suffered a fall in popularity, according to

figures released yesterday. Admissions dropped by more

than 17 per cent in the final quarter of last year compared

Statistics showed a drop from 31,3 million to 26,2 million.

with 1997. Figures released by the Office for National

likely to have flaky skin and be more disease prone.

coverage of the Falklands War, has died suddenly in

wife. He had two children from his first marriage.

226 prisoners still on the run

offences, and two attempted rapes or rapes.



Menson: Set alight

main in force and no application for legal aid was made.

day by officers from the Metropolitan Police's racial and violent crime task force, remain

in custody. Scotland Yard were yesterday granted an extension to hold the men who will undergo further questioning. When that permission expires, police must either charge the men, release them, or obtain a further extension from a magistrate.

Mr Menson, was the son of a Ghanaian diplomat, and was born in Moscow. As a child he lived in several countries. He was a member of the band Double Trouble which

had a series of top 10 hits in the late Eighties. The band broke up in 1993.

Clinics hunt sperm donors in snooker hall

FERTILITY CLINICS in Bristol By JEREMY LAURANCE faced with a decline in sperm donors sensibly decided to target sportsmen as volunteers. Athletic, energetic, they would be the very image of virility.

ground? Snooker clubs. The decline in the number of of life" for Bristol University's Centre for Reproductive Medicine has reached crisis levels, said senior seminologist Joanna Day. The centre is down to its last four donors.

It needs 20 to satisfy demand from the 300 couples a year who seek help to start a family.

"We are approaching crisis point and really need men to fantastic idea." help out. We are having to rely on frozen samples given years seemed a good idea to target unmentioned.

Health Editor

them with leaflets." Next to darts, it is perhaps hard to imagine a group less likely to The clinic's first huntingprove a woman's procreative dream. Next to the genetic charms of David Ginola, or people willing to produce "a gift Linford Christie, budding "Hurricane" Higginses, complete with fag and whisky chaser, might find demand for their gametes slow. But a spokesman for Riley's Snooker Club in Bristol said: "We have a pile of leaflets going fast. Lots of regular players are laughing, but then they pocket them and take them home. I think it is a

Ms Day said next on the target list would be rugby, football ago," she said. "As snooker and tennis players. Sumo clubs are dominated by men, it wrestling and darts are as yet

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Marie Service

Her ambition was to work management in one of the maker, map urgonals par p tion of her own perceived faculties, she lowered her see and obtained a job as a project of the with a Duich const tant engineering firm.

Three years later, in 198 after a 10 month assignment Colombia, Miss Van Oute howen was exhausted and seribed herself as a comple mess" She resigned because the was not coping with & tevet of endurance required the peli and had not met thein levels expected by her a

May hard out worked since though she had made sten our efforts to discover whater wroner, with her and obtains insdictate treatment

In messing the allegange faterication, the judge sade with their report that the best it estelligent and success a resolution would have some Periodical the consequence her accordent as to greeple chances of obtaining these salar warmerd in order to ale her claim for damages

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THE PLANNING inquiry into a proposed fifth terminal for Meathrow Airport ends next week, having smashed all records: over the past four years its various participants have produced 21 million words, 80,000 separate docu-

dentally, 19 children

Many of those participants are already breathing audible sighs of relief in expectation of going home from the inquiry next Wednesday afternoon and not coming back. Even the lawyers, some of whom have become exceedingly rich from the four years of deliberation, seem glad that it is all over, they have started telephoning their travel agents to make plans for long, faraway holidays.

Lord Silsoe QC, a leading lawyer for the British Airports Authority, admits: "It feels strange. It's difficult to imagine what life will be like without it." A veteran of the lengthy Sizewell B nuclear power-station planning inquiry, he talks of the mixture of "relief and anti-climax" when it is all over

When the Terminal Five inquiry started at the Ramada Heathrow hotel it was expected to last no more than 16 months. Four years on, they are still there, marooned on the boarded-over swimming pool which serves as a conference room in the soulless hinterland of Heathrow

Heinz Volland, general manager at the Renaissance (the for such a possibility, warning hotel has since been renamed) will be sad to see everybody go. They have, he says with gentle understatement, been "good customers". Over the years, the Terminal Gang have become the hotel's most familiar and profitable guests.

The inquiry has turned into a mini-industry all of its own. Some of the BAA team even sleep on site; they get to go home only at weekends. They are delighted that the end is finally nigh. "When we leave this building it will be like being released from prison," says one of the BAA staff, who none the less admits to worries that she and others have become incarceration. "It'll be difficult be able to spend more time with families that have changed and grown; the inquiry chairman, High Court judge Roy Vander-meer, has become a grandfa-

ther, as has his deputy. The hotel takes itself seriously as a home from home, organising summer and Christmas parties, "Such a spread, you wouldn't believe it." says Norman Hawkins, inquiry commissionaire. One of the diehard protesters admits: "It's been quite pleasurable - a so-

hard work and aggression." The two sides may smile and chat together, over the turkey and trimmings, but the there is no love lost between supporters and opponents of the Terminal Five scheme.

cial four years as well as the

Along the soft-carpeted hotel corridors are rows of offices converted from hotel bedrooms. Twenty six of them, in fact, filled with files and com-

The grand offices belong to BAA A humbler bedroom is the opponents' bunker. The name on the door "Resistance Headquarters" is written in Gothic ("engage the enemy more

closely") is a cosy but indignant land of tea and chocolate biscuits. The tweed-jacketed Leonard Lean, a retired British Rail manager, has been coming almost daily since the inquiry ments, £80m in costs and, incibegan -444 days, and counting. "My wife describes it as like going back to work I leave home at ten to nine, and get back at six or quarter past."

Not surprisingly, many be-lieve that the whole inquiry has been a gross waste of money Peter Hall, professor of planning at University College London, argues: "There's got to be a better way. It's farcical. You can't take four years to reach a decision - even on the most important subject. There has to be some kind of time limit."

The inquiry itself will not even necessarily lead anywhere, despite spending such huge sums. The most likely outcome is that the investigation, after spending four years hearing all the evidence and then another two thinking about it, will come up with the answer that was first thought of.

Government ministers have been publicly scornful of the inquiry, describing it as a "waste

Even if it recommends against the new terminal, the Government could simply ignore its recommendations and go ahead anyway. Critical MPs are already bracing themselves of "one hell of a bloody row" if that were to happen.

Allegedly, this has been democracy in action. Sometimes it has looked more like democracy inaction. Anybody can make submissions to the inquiry - which are duly listened to, noted, typed up, photo-

More than 800 people have given evidence - often several times. Leonard Lean alone has made 190 submissions to the inquiry. Hardly surprising, perhaps, that the inquiry has ended up within spitting distance of the new millermium. In genteel voices the sub-

missions - mostly incompre-"institutionalised" by this long hensible to the lay visitor continue without end. The



Since starting work for the inquiry Christine Cowley has had triplets, Catherine, Patrick And Dominic, who are now two years and four months old. The investigation has also generated 21 million words, 80,000 documents, and £80m in costs

inquiry next week. Yesterday it

published the results of a

Gallup poll of residents show-

ing that "a clear majority" (56

per cent) would support the ter-

minal if no new runway is built,

air-noise levels do not get worse

than in 1994, and the night-

flight quota does not increase.

"Only" one in three would

offensive to mark the end of the Five if those concessions were

Sir John Egan, chief execu-

tive of the authority, said that

there was "no alternative" to

Terminal Five and insisted that

the company was confident of

The terminal, designed by

Richard Rogers, is to be built those problems.

overwhelming".

FOR A BROCHURE

touched jugs of iced water.

"If I turn to CA33 and day 504 concerned with the application of service standards ... reasonably achievable ATMs in the segregated mode." And thus it continues, all day, day

after day. Lord Silsoe argues that a than the alternative - not havto accustom ourselves to ordi. words want across the carpet ing an inquiry. "People can

525-DAY MARATHON

THE PUBLIC inquiry loto the planned fifth terminal at

Wednesday it will complete a \$25-day saga which has

The inquiry has used up 100,000 of daily transcripts,

■ Tweive million sheets of paper have been printed as

If all the documents were stacked up, they would

reach 150ft - as high as nine double-decker buses on

■ More than 800 witnesses representing 50 major

parties have presented evidence in person. This has

■ The inspectors have undertaken 90 site visits and

held 17 public sessions which were attended by more

than 1,600 people. Around 400 members of the public

■ The two inspectors, assisted by eight other planning

inspectors, listened to more than 3,100 hours of legal

They had to examine 37 separate planning applications, including two submissions to divert rivers.

■ The inquiry received 5,400 official bundles of

■ A total of 33 barristers have been employed at some

Heathrow began on 16 May 1995. When it ends on

generated an astonishing array of statistics:

Twenty one million words have been spoken.

all recorded by stenographers.

part of the Inquiry process.

included 20 MPs and MEPs.

gave evidence at these sessions.

stage during the inquiry.

argument and evidence.

top of each other.

crisp white tablecloths and undemonstrations, like in France any worse." BAA is going on the continue to oppose Terminal

protest demonstrations.

On the substantial argulong inquiry like this is better ments both sides are as far apart as ever. BAA, wearing its best diplomatic hat, says that it held, to allow all grievances to be fully aired "and listened to".

runways that already exist.

For "better", read more. Rita Pears, chair of one of the local residents' groups, lives direct-ly under a flight path. She fears that if Terminal Five is built the health and noise problems will be even worse than they already are. Protesters claim that their sleep is disturbed especially by the "evil" Concorde, and that the BAA's claim that there are few night flights is dishonest, since planes arriving at 5am or even earlier do not count as night flights. Ms Pears, who brought her ninemonth-old grandson Stephen to the inquiry this week, says he suffers from asthma as a result of the pollution. She claims that she is not against the airport as such. But, she says, the

or Germany."
But Professor Hall is sceptical, arguing that the system in Europe is "less cumbersome" and that large inquiries in this country are in any case frequently accompanied by

They swear that they understand how strongly people feel. More to the point, they like to insist that many of the objections are based on misunderstanding the situation. They emphasise that the construction of Terminal Five does not mean building another runway, merely utilising better the

noise and pollution are already bad. "We couldn't bear it getting

HEARINGS

LONGEST

With the exception of Terminal 5, the longest ever public inquiry in this country was into the Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk, it spanned more than six years and involved 340 sitting days of hearings. The inquiry into the £3on plant was headed by Sir Frank Layfield who reported in 1987. The inquiry into the power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset lasted for 182 sitting days. The 100-day nuclear public inquiry into Windscale. which became known as the Thorp plant at Sellafield, also made history as the longest. It was run by Mr Justice Parker who reported is March 1978. The Stansted airport public inquiry lasted for 258 full sitting days. The independent inspector, Graham Evre QC, recommended planning consent in December 1984. The inquity into the proposed £700m Birmingham Northern Relief Road, the country's first private toli motorway, opened in April 1994 and closed in October the following year. There were 191 sitting days.

Leonard Lean and his colleagues are, however, having none of it. He warms that he and other opponents will not give up, even if BAA wins this round. "We'll go through it with a toothcomb - and we'll take it to a judicial review."

within the boundaries of the ex-

isting airport, on a sludge farm.

Sir John Egan claims: "This

BAA acknowledges that traf-

fic problems in the area are like-

ly to get (even) worse. But it

on rail, bus and coach links

would soften the impact of

claims that £600m being spent

will be an attractive building in

the best possible place."

In short, the old story: Having already garnered from between them, at least the lawyers can rejoice.

■ A total of 22,500 people made written representations, including postcards, of which 95 per script, as if in an old-fashioned war movie. Behind the door cent opposed Terminal Five.

sentence is cut

A SCHOOLBOY who killed two BY STEPHEN HOWARD elderly sisters while driving a Porsche given to him by his "indulgent father" had his four-

year sentence cut by a year at the Court of Appeal yesterday. Satvinder Nijjer was convicted on two counts of causing death by dangerous driving at Stafford Crown Court last October. He was sentenced to four years in a young offenders' institution and disqualified

from driving for five years. The Recorder of Leeds, and the remorse he felt.

Nijjer, now 20, of Wednesfield, West Midlands, had been given the car for his 18th birthday. On 12 February, 1997, he left St to find that young man."

Edmunds RC school with two friends during a lunch break. His counsel, William Clegg QC, said Nijjer never wished to drive again after the accident when he lost control on a bend and struck Lavinia Carring-

ton, 78, and her sister Winifred,

76, killing them instantly. Judge Walsh said: "The car had been bought for him a short while before as a present for his 18th birthday It was Judge Brian Walsh, sitting in bought for him by an indulgent London yesterday, said a three-year sentence reflected the even in foresight, it could have "mitigating circumstances" of been seen, as Mr Clegg de-Nijjer's age, good character scribed it, as an 'insane' gift."

Judge Walsh added: "It is quite clear that if anyone could be more remorseful than this young man, it would be difficult

Porsche driver's |Time called for millennium eve

ANYONE FANCYING a pint, a By GARY FINN knees-up, and a few verses of "Anid Lang Syne" for the Mil- it makes it worth our while." lennium at their local, better think again if it is a J D Wetherspoon - they are shutting early.

The sober owners of the 311 pubs would close at 8.30pm on New Year's Eve. The firm, known for its no-

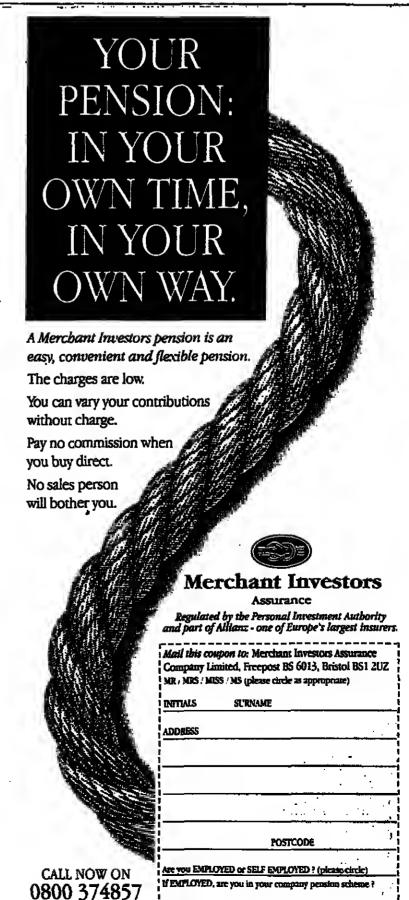
nonsense blend of beer promotions, all-day food and bans on music, TV, quiz nights and karaoke, said the decision was moved by concern for its staff; it wanted to give them the night off to see in the new year. Chairman Tim Martin said yesterday: "Our pubs don't

have music, and late on New Year's Eve we won't lose as much as other pubs would. "Combined with the benefits

Earlier this week, Allied Domecq, one of Britain's biggest pub groups, said it was aiming to open as many of its Wetherspoon chain said all of its 2,000 outlets for as long as possible on New Year's Eve. Those employees involved in

roped in to working the through the New Year celebrations can look forward to handsome bonuses particularly those in hotels, catering, restaurants and other leisure sectors. Most wages are set to increase sixfold and employers are bracing themselves for workers who will simply not turn up.

Many London restaurants such as The Ivy and Le Caprice, have announced they will not be opening, to allow staff to us in terms of staff morale, a night off to celebrate.





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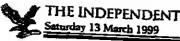
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THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

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Students believe Pill can stop Aids

MORE THAN a quarter of secondary school children think the contraceptive pill will protect them from sexually transmitted diseases. The same number think that having a steady partner will have the

New research by the Health Education Authority reveals big gaps in teenagers' knowledge about sex. One in six 15year-old boys say they have heard of "gonaditis", a non-existent sexually transmitted disease made up by researchers.

But fewer have heard of chlamydia, a real disease that can make women infertile. Ministers are reconsidering

sex education as part of a wideranging review of the curricuhum, which includes citizenship, moral and spiritual values and the arts, as well as academic subjects. The results are expected to be announced next

The latest research into young people's attitudes and behaviour, Young People and Health, was carried out among 10,407 11 to 16-year-olds in 70 English secondary schools. They were questioned about school, family life, smoking, drinking, drug-taking and sexual health.

Although three-quarters of children like school, bullying is widespread. Half of all children have been bullied at school at some time and one in five said they had been the victims of bullying during the current term.

Children who are bullied tend to bully others - about 40 per cent of the victims admitBy Judith Judd **Education Editor**

ted they were also bullies. Sixteen per cent have been made fun of because of their race and

When they were questioned about sex education, nearly all recalled lessons about the development of the body, sexual relationships, contraception and birth control.

However, teenagers would like more information about homosexuality and lesbianism. Fifteen and 16-year-olds would also like more information about Aids. More teenagers - 92 per cent - know about HIV/Aids than other sexually transmitted diseases, the survey shows.

Only 39 per cent have heard of gonorrhoea, 33 per cent of syphilis and 51 per cent of herpes. Reports of gonorrhoea among 16 to 19-year-olds rose 46 per cent between 1995 and 1997, For chlamydia, the figure was 56 per cent. Nine out of 10 young people had heard of the condom and the contraceptive

Neither drug taking nor drinking appears to be increasing. Both are at about the same level as they were three years ago. Alcopops are growing in popularity.

Twenty per cent do not drink at all and three fifths drink only a little. Five per cent of children are already drinking at the age of 11, compared with nearly half of 16-year-olds.

Children who dislike school are more likely to take risks with their health such as smoking, drinking and taking drugs. But yesterday Mr Tennant, in



Around 500 Dusty Springfield fans heard her hit 'You Don't Have to Say You Love Me' play as the singer's coffin arrived for her funcral in Henley

Hundreds flock to say they loved her

NEIL TENNANT, of the Pet Shop BY MARY BRAID Boys, reached into another era yesterday for the adjective which summed up precisely what made Dusty Springfield special. "Dusty was special," he said, "because Dusty was fab". Laughter rippled through St Mary's Church in Henley-on-Thames at the funeral of the finest female soul singer Britain ever produced who, with her

beehive bair and panda eyes, personified "fabriess". The Pet Shop Boys are credited with resurrecting Dusty's career by recording with her in the late 1980s, years after she had dropped out of the charts,

a moving and very fimny tribute made clear that the privilege had been all theirs.

When they decided to ask Dusty to record with them, the duo was warned that the singer who had battled against drugs and booze was "difficult".

There were gloomy predictions that she might not even turn up at the recording studio. But when the day came, there was Dusty, all in black leather, a very punctual, "mid-Eighties

The icon, he said, had turned out to be shy, "sweet and kind and the nation's consciousness. and a bit nutty", But, Mr Tennant said when Dusty sang he knew he was "in the presence of greatness". The funeral was an oddly in-

timate, of the people sort of affair. A crowd of 500 people gathered outside to listen to the funeral service relayed on speakers murmured agreement when Mr Tennant said

Dusty would have been moved

to know what she had meant to Dusty, who loved studio technology, would have approved of

the state of the art PA system which belted out her hits across Henley's ancient town centre. Apart from the Pet Shop Boys and Elvis Costello, the

celebrities in attendance were

mainly from the era when

the top of the charts: Lulu in dark sunglasses, Madeline Bell of Blue Mink, Kiki Dee. The coffin had arrived to

the strains of "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me" in a glass covered horse-drawn carriage upon which the singer's name was carved out in flowers. Trudy Mitchell, 42, from

south-east London wept uncontrollably as the service drew to a close. She said she had been a fan of Dusty's since she was five years old. A neighbour, Gib Hancock,

who became Dusty's friend in Henley while she fought the cancer that ended her life, said: "She was without doubt one of

Dusty was a regular focture at the bravest people that I knew." When the coffin emerged from the church, en route to the crematorium, the crowd broke into applause as another Springfield song played.

Among the family bouquets, to Mary O'Brien - Dusty's real name - was one from Sir Paul McCartney. He was, said the card, glad to have had the chance a few weeks earlier to tell Dusty "what a classic" she was.

Elvis Costello told the congregation how Dusty used to sing in "a voice so unique and precious". He passed on a tribute from American producer Burt Bacharach who said: "You could hear just three notes and you knew it was Dusty."

and Nicole Kidman were

among mourners to pay their

final respects to film director

Stanley Kubrick yesterday. The husband and wife actors, who played the lead roles in Kubrick's last film, Eyes *Widc Shut*, were driven into his Hertfordshire estate close behind director Steven Spielberg.

In keeping with the director's secretive lifestyle, there were no details of any funeral service. lt was understood Kuhrick will be buried in the grounds of the estate, Childwickbury Manor near St Albans.

His death at the age of 70 came less than a week after Eyes Wide Shut was completed.

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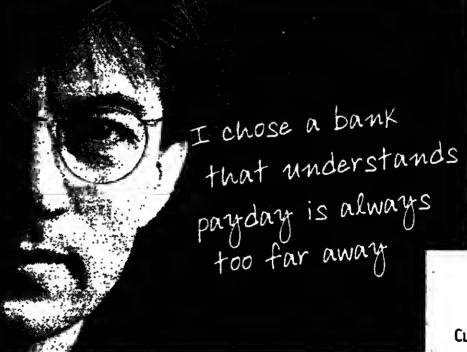
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Is there a place for Lilley at Hague's Kitchen Table?

lief on the Conservative benches on bearing that Michael Howard has decided to spend more time "" his directorships and qui, me front bench. He has finally bowed to what Michael Portillo described as his "image problem". In truth, though, he has probably decided the Conservatives are simply not going to win the next election.

He will still be able to enjoy a chauffeur and limousine which, as a former Home Secretary, he retains for security reasons. The way is now open for Mr Hague to encourage other old timers to pack it in, despite the rearguard action last month on their behalf by Gillian Shephard. Sir Norman Fowler is said to be ready to stand down if required but spination also aurrounds the lature of the Deputy Leader, Peter Lilley. Mr Lilley has not spoken at the dispatch box either at question time or in a debate since last June and looks miserable most of the time. In fact, the body language of several frontbenchers could be dismissed as political coris giving Conservative MPs cause for concern. Francis Maude, the shadow Chancellor, and James Arbuthnot, the 'invisible' Chief Whip, sit glumly with permanent scowls on their faces. This hardly suggests that they have come to terms with the long haul of opposition. Iain Duncan Smith, the shadow Social progress so far", exposing it as noth-

tipped as Mr Howard's replacement because of his hard-line stance on Europe.

THE DEBALE on women brought back blasts from the past on both sides with excellent speeches from former ministers, Harriet Harman had a go at the 'New Labour, New Lad' style of the Government, with "talk to women as well as men". She attacked it for falling back on "militaristic, macho, hierarchical language and behaviour". She gave as media agenda in the aftermath of Peter Mandelson's resignation. "They announced that the refocusing would be led by the big guns, the big hitters and the big beasts." Ms Harman said this was an example of men talking about men to other men and denied that her views

Mrs Bottomley, meanwhile, was brought back onto the Conservative front bench to wind up the debate for the Opposition - underlining the Tory shortage of women MPs. She made mincemeat of the government document "Delivering for women -

Security spokesman is among those ing more than a series of trite comments. Mrs Bottomley has been one of the few former cabinet ministers not to sink without trace. She has successfully reinvented herself and may make a surprise re-entry to permanent frontbench duties.

GERALD HOWARTH (C, Aldershot) and Virginia Bottomley. Ms Harman has been stalking the Lord Chancellor over the alleged misuse of his official private office to promote his a full frontal assault on its failure to close friend. Andrew Patrick, in his rejoining of the Garrick Club. In answer to Mr Howarth, the Prime Minister confirmed that Lord Irvine's office "was involved in preparing an example the manner in which the and dispatching some letters on the Government tried to refocus the Lord Chancellor's behalf. This was an oversight and the costs have been reimbursed". Mr Howarth then ascertained in another written question (cost £112) that £9.80 for postage; £7.84 for stationery; and £6.98 for typing had been repaid to the Government by Lord Irvine.

> WILLIAM HAGUE prepares for this weekend's half-yearly mini-Tory conference at Reading with the fourth relaunch since he became party leader.

He began with "fresh future" before moving onto the "listening to Britain" exercise. But this was superseded by the policy of doing tive response to the Budget by con-

THE WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

MICHALL BROWN

things "the British way". Now we bave the latest gimmick called "kitchen table Conservatism" which is no longer based on economics and is to be conducted in shirt sleeves and without ties.

Mr Hague should not downgrade the previous emphasis on economics. He played to his strengths this week with an effecmulative tax increases since Gordon Brown became Chancellor.

Mr Hague has also taken the law into his own hands when it comes to dealing with the press. No longer relying on spin-doctors to harangue the sceplical media, he is challenging journalists to judo bouts following his regular training sessions with his minder Sebastian Coe. First up is "Judo Matt", otherwise known as The Sunday Telegraph's deputy editor, Matthew D'Ancona. Hacks are demanding attendance to the grudge match but all the smart money is on Hague to win at least this battle with the press.

PADDY ASHDOWN may have ordered aspiring leadership candidates not to declare themselves formally or canvass actively for support, but subtle hints of makeovers, preparation for the hustings ahead, have already been noticed.

The coce fierce and formidable Jackie Ballard (Taunton) has softened her edges for media appearances and positively glows with elegance after a transformation in her dress sense. Meanwhile the greying, tousled locks of Don Foster (Bath) haved suddenly become a suspiciously shiny shade of brown, with more than a hint of Grecian 2000.

centrating on the single target of cu- DAVID BLUNKETT'S hlack, cur'y haired retriever, Lucy, who was in disgrace with Millbank Tower for her sickly reaction to the Budget debate, is gaining a reputation for forthright political views.

On one occasion she responded to an evasive answer from Tony Blair during question time with an embarrassing growl of disgust. But she knows party loyalty better than most canine politicians. Even before the general election, when she was newer than her boss to her duties, she tried to lead Mr Blunkett on to the government benches. Stopping off once in Smith Square, Westminster for a call of nature while in a taxi - accompanied by this newspaper's political editor and Mr Blunkett - sbe dutifully bounded over to defecate in front of Conservative Central Office.

THIS WEEKS Budget was more Flash Gordon than Prudence. MPs on all sides were dazzled with Mr Brown's wizardry. But, as Labour MPs cheered it to the echo, Andrew Rowe (C. Faversham and Mid-Kent) remarked that the last time he heard a similar reaction was when Conservative MPs cheered Nigel Lawson's 1988 Budget. It was downhill to recession for the Conservatives from that point on.

The word "budget" comes from

the French bougette meaning a "small bag" and is thought to derive from a cartoon in a pamphlet of 1733 which showed Sir Robert Walpole (the Prime Minister and Chancellor) opening a bag (or budget) full of medicines and potions. Mr Brown's 67-minute speech was relalively short but was beaten for brevity by Benjamin Disraeli's record of 45 minutes in 1867. The longest Budget speech, by William Gladstone in 1853, took five hours to deliver - hence the tradition that permits the Chancellor to refresh himself with alcohol. In the last century even MPs in the house were recorded as having been "fortified" with spirits during particularly longwinded speeches. More recently, Ken Clarke chose

malt whisky; Nigel Lawson, in the yuppie Eighties, went for spritzer while Geoffrey Howe opted for gin and tonic. In previous times, rum with orange was the choice of Hugh Gaitskell Derrick Heathcote Amory, a Conservative chancellor in the Fifties, chose milk and honey with rum although he actually collapsed while delivering the Budget. Overwork rather than the rum was responsible for that embarrassment. Mr Brown took no chances, sticking to mineral water during his speech to ensure a clear head for the round of media broadcasts and interviews afterwards.

Tory plan for secret poll test of MPs

ALL TORY MPs could be forced **SELECTION** to face mandatory reselection contests in a move to root out sleaze and promote more women to Parliament.

Radical plans to make sitting MPs undergo compulsory secret ballots of local members will be considered for the first time at the Conservative spring conference tomorrow. Under the measures, proposed in a motion before the Spring Forum at Reading, the party's current re-adoption procedures would be replaced by a more formal system of reselection.

The idea's backers claim that it would end forever fiascos such as the failure of Conservative Central Office to prevent Neil Hamilton from standing in Tatton at the last

general election. They also say that it would make it much easier for women, and even for homosexual candidates, to win norninations for plum seats in the

Tory heartlands. However, opponents believe that the move would plunge the Tories into the same kind of bloodletting that dogged Labour when it adopted the practice of compulsory reselection in the early Eighties.

Many Tory MPs reacted angrily to the move when informed by Archie Hamilton. chairman of the party's back-bench 1922 Committee, but it is backed by grass-roots activists.

The motion will be moved by Lady Bethell, chairman of Buckingham Conservative Association, in a secret session of the Tory conference.

It is understood that William Hague dislikes the motion "in its current form" and may pressure delegates to defer making a decision on the matter.

However, the Tory leader is known to favour the greater democracy of the proposals and does not want to rule out

Political Correspondent

One Tory Association representative, who did not want to be named, said: "Some MPs hate the idea, but lots of people in the voluntary party want more democracy.' Tory associations currently

conduct re-adoption meetings with a show of hands unless a third of members call for a secret ballot or the constituency chairman decides to have one. Normally, the procedure is a rubber stamp, but some activists point out that the system prohibits those who want change but do not want to publicly criticise their MP.

Mr Hague will use the spring conference today to outline his new "caring Conservatism" approach, and deliver eight specific manifesto commitments for the next general election.

Key among them will be a pledge to reintroduce to the tax and benefit system an "explicit and special recognition of marriage". Although the restoration of the Married Couples' Allowance is not likely, transferring partners' tax allowances is one possible proposal.

promise to abolish hudget capping of local councils and to cut red tape for business.

In his keynote speech, Mr Hague will say that he wants to "hreak free" from the Tories' past under the Thatcher and Major governments: If the Conservative Party is going to champion freedom, local institutions, champion a better quality of life for all, then it cannot allow itself to be seen as élitist. out of touch, and arrogant.

"It cannot allow itself to be seen as for the few rather than the many, as harsh and uncaring. Ours will be a party that has hroken free. It will be a party



Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, taking questions from the media yesterday before the party's conference in Aberdeen Jeff J Mitchell/Reuters

Salmond takes a gamble on tax

The Tory leader will also SCOTS WILL become the high-romise to abolish hudget cap-ing of local councils and to cut Scottish National Party wins control of the Holyrood Parliament in May. In a finely balanced gamble, Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, yesterday appealed to the people of Scotland to forego the Chancellor's Ip cut in income tax in favour of

spending on public services. The tax move opens clear ideological water between Labour and the nationalists and, apart from independence itself, will form the key issue of the election campaign.

Mr Salmond said the choice was "between an election penny bribe under Labour or investment in health, education and

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN Scotland Correspondent

housing under the SNP". But not all delegates at the party's special conference in Aberdeen shared their leader's confidence in Scots' philanthropy, with one critic saying be had "lit the funeral pyre" of the SNP.

The disclosure came as a surprise to most party activists who had expected Mr Salmond to echo Labour in promising not to use parliament's tax varying powers in the first four years. Gordon Brown said the plan had been "concocted in the

last day or two" and would

make hundreds of thousands of

Scots worse off. But the Chancellor sounded rattled, betraying a fear that Mr Salmood's

gamble may pay off. From April next year, if Mr Salmond gets his way, taxpayers will be paying ip in the pound more on the basic rate than those south of the Border A person on £15,000 a year will pay £2.69 a week more than in Eogland and someone on

£40,000 an extra £5.19 a week. Though the leadership avoided talking of a tax "rise", the only way to keep the basic rate at 23p is if Holyrood votes to levy the extra 1p. The SNP calculates it will raise £230m a year, to be ring-fenced for edu-

cation, health and housing.

The high-risk strategy en-ables the SNP to bracket Labour with the Tories as putting tax cuts before services. Mr Salmond cited a recent ICM poll showing 85 per cent of Scots backed using tax powers for defined public services. But conventional wisdom suggests voters' generosi-

ty deserts them at the ballot box. Mr Salmond told delegates the Government was spending less on education in Scotland than the Tories when Michael Forsyth was Secretary of State.

Gordon Brown thinks that the Scottish election can be bought for £2 a week for the average Scot. Bought and sold for a penny off tax! I think he is

the party was "running for gold". An SNP government would offer, within its first fouryear term, a referendum on independence, he reaffirmed "We are ready to win ... to

be a nation again. Labour rounded on the SNP tax plan with a nervous fury. Mr Brown, meeting husinessmen in Edinburgh, said: "The losers would be home-owners, they would be pensioners, young people starting out."

A further worry for Labour is that the move increases the chances of the SNP being able to form a coalition at Holyrood with the Liberal Democrats, who are ready to raise taxes to wrong." He added that on 6 May pay for schools and hospitals,

Straw plans Bill on data freedom

INFORMATION By Sarah Schaefer Political Reporter

A DRAFT Bill on freedom of information will be published in May, the Home Secretary Jack Straw announced in a Commons written reply yesterday.

He also revealed that ministers would extend the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information to more than 150 quangos.
The code commits the non-

departmental and advisory bodies to give the public facts and analysis about policy decisions. It also sets guidelines for dealing with the public and requires the organisations to give reasons

for administrative decisions. Mr Straw said: "Freedom of information is a fundamental part of that process and should significantly transform the relationship between citizens and the state.

A draft Bill is put out for widespread consultation, ahead of a move to bring in legislation. The Government came under pressure after the Queen's Speech when it emerged that no date was given for the publication of the draft.

There was some backbench concern that the Government, by only introducing a draft Bill, had put the manifesto pledge on hold after the sacking of Dr David Clark, the former cabinet office minister, last summer. Dr Clark was regarded as the leading campaigner for a Freedom of Information Act and had apparently already drafted legislation on the matter.

A Freedom of Information Act has been regarded as being at the heart of Tony Blair's pledge that New Labour had to be "whiter than white" after years of Tory sleaze.

Rhodri Morgan, the Public Administration Committee's chairman and a campaigner for freedom of information, said it was "very important" that after such a long delay the Bill

was going to be published.

However, the key question remained how the Bill would define exceptions to the principle that information should be released, such as on the grounds that it would harm the national interest. Mr Morgan stressed it was vital that the Bill specified "substantial harm" as the

Racism claims 'offensive and stupid'

DOWNING STREET yesterday attacked as "offensive and stupid" reported remarks by the singer Patti Boulave that the killers of Stephen Lawrence old singer and actress was were either Labour voters or National Front supporters.

Ms Boulaye, who hopes to stand as a Tory candidate for a bid to win key ethnic minority the new London assembly next year, made her comments in an Authority elections in May 2000. interview that has caused deep embarrassment in Conservative Central Office.

The former winner of ITV's New Faces show also prompted anger with her claim that 80 per cent of Labour supporters were racist, compared to 20 per cent of Conservatives. The 44-yearLONDON ASSEMBLY BY PAUL WAUGH

Political Correspondent paraded two weeks ago as the Tories' newest recruit and was pictured with William Hague in

votes in the Greater Loodon fired vesterday when she made ments in The Express newspaper, including the claim that prejudice is what makes black footballers good players and that a good economy "stops

However, the PR coup backa series of outlandish comblack people feeling so black.

Ms Boulaye immediately claimed that she had been misquoted in the article, but a verbatim transcript of the taped

interview confirms the accuracy of her reported quotes. "I would say 80 per cent of Labour people I have met have been prejudiced, as opposed to 20 per cent of Conservatives ... Most of the Labour people I have met have been prejudiced," the transcript reads.

"I mean those boys accused of killing Stepben Lawrence. I can assure you that they voted if not National Front, it's either National Front or Labour" Tony Blair's official spokes-

man seized on the remarks a!

the daily Number 10 briefing of lobby journalists, saying that it was "just another embarrassment for William Hague".

"If she said that, those views are offensive and stupid. Most people, let alone Labour Party supporters, would find it offensive," the spokesman added. Officially, Conservative Central Office stood by Ms Boulaye yesterday, backing her claim

that she had been misquoted. Privately, Tory sources pointed out that Ms Boulsye had not yet been adopted as an official party candidate and would not be likely to until November, when the selection process was completed.



Patti Boulaye: Lawrence killers voted Labour

Brown fails to impress Blair with CAP reform

NICK BROWN yesterday sought ARICULTURE to fight off criticism over the deal he reached on the Common Agriculture Policy ahead of Monday's crunch meeting of

European finance ministers. The Agriculture Minister defended the overhaul of the 37year-old system as a "major step forward" which marked a "radical change in direction". The reform, yet to be agreed by finance ministers at an Ecofin meeting, will lead to cuts in subsidies on beef, dairy and cere- radical change in the direction als production, with dairy of the CAP for which the Govquotas phased out in 2006.

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

after all-night negotiations, has been rejected by Tony Blair as "not good enough".

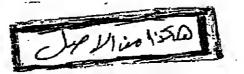
In a Commons statement Mr Brown acknowledged it would take years for the full benefits to come into force; but said the reform would be good for British consumers, farmers and the environment.

"The outcome represents a ernment has been pressing However, the deal, struck strongly."

It had been achieved despite a reluctance to reform on the part of several countries, he added. The British rebate had never been under discussion during the negotiations.

Sbadow Agriculture Minister Tim Yeo said despite Mr Brown's "rather extravagant" claims, the deal was unsatisfactory. "Claims of a windfall for consumers are hopelessly

premature," he said. He added that the deal had failed to reform the CAP in the promised way and the cost of it would now rise even further than originally feared.



INFORMATION BY SARAH SCHAFFE Did tiens liegewier

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Saturday 13 March 1999

A pearl filed away among the offal

PUBLICITY FOR new books chimes with the spirit of the times and now produces what the editor of The Observer recently called "avalanche journalism". This week it was the turn of Germaine Greer and Monica Lewinsky. The journalistic snow they generated swept down the hillside and buried everything in its path. Other new books - which in Britain number at least a thousand a week - need men with shovels to dig them out.

In Ian Buruma's case, I volunteer for the job. He has written a book which deserves to be noticed outside the review pages, and to be read by anyone with any interest in the past, present and future of Britain as a nation, Its title and subtitle - Voltaire's Coconuts, or Anglomania in Europe may not set off the music of the bookshop till (Danger! Scholar at Work!), but they disguise a just and sympathetic account of how Britain has seemed over the past few hundred years to our European neighbours. And as Europe, or what used to be known as "The Continent", is now impinging on us as never before in peacetime - yesterday the resignation of Germany's finance minister was even the Sun's front-page splash; unthinkable 10 years ago - the time seems right to start learn-

ing a little more about this. Buruma's book is a clever combination of history, hiography, current observation, and autobiography. It begins with Voltaire, who saw England as a model of freedom and democracy (the title comes from his universalist idea that it could be transplanted, like the coconut), and then moves

NOTEBOOK

IAN JACK

forward through all kinds of Anglophobes, Anglophiles (and Scottophiles). Some names are familiar. Goethe, the Kaiser, Karl Marx, Leslie Howard, Nikolaus Pevsner. Others obscure: Prince Hermann von Puckler-Muskau. for instance, who imagined that English parks and gardens held the key to human happiness and called his German country house "Barns Hall" as though it were in Wiltshire. Apart from telling you about things not commonly known, which is always a good reason for a book's existence, not always practised, the effect is reassuring: Britain and continental Europe have influenced each other in a multitude of interesting, individual ways as well as through the grand stuff we learnt at school about naval engagements and the Congress of Berlin.

This may sound taxing it may also sound like Euro-propaganda. In fact, it's neither of these things. Buruma writes for a living, usually as a journalist, and he's always clear and often vivid. About the great European project - the euro, the federal state - be is agnostic. His special quality is to know Britain and to be not

quite British. We are getting used to an external view of ourselves, but that view is usually American (Bill Bryson, Paul Theroux, Ruby Wax) and not necessarily useful if the British future is transchannel rather than transatlantic Buruma, on the other hand, grew up in the Netherlands with a Dutch father and an English mother. He studied Chinese literature at Levden and then went east on a scholarship to Japan. where he became a photographer, married his Japanese wife, and spent a long spell in Hong Kong. He speaks Dutch, and Mandarin. For obvious reasons, he says, the question of what nationhood means to

people fascinates him. For the past nine years, his home has been a terrace in Kentish Town opposite, in his words, "one of the ugliest churches in Christendom". A completely undistinguished bit of London: who could be bothered to notice it? And yet, as Buruma writes, there it is in Dr Nikolaus Pevsner's The Buildings of England - the church faithfully recorded and described "without praise or blame". Perhaps only an Anglophile German Jew could have recorded Britain's architectural heritage so indefatigably, driving around the country day after day, year after year, with notebooks and cliphoards to list and describe any building worth looking at,

Without him, we would all be poorer Pevsner is one of the foundations of the heritage industry. But at the time the rewards for his painstaking work were often snobbish jokes (by John Beteman, among others)

and quite a few that weren't.



about unimaginative German pedantry. Punch magazine published a poem about him: From the heart of Mittel-Europe I make der little trip to show der english dumm-kopfs some echt-deutsch schöl-

Have we moved on since then? Buruma thinks so, even though yesterday's Sun headline on Oskar Lafontaine did read "We haf ways of making you quit". He likes living here. Manners have certainly changed since his father came on a trip from The Hague to his wife'a Berkshire village in 1950 and noticed that "the English are extremely polite but not so polite as to seem condescending". But other virtues have replaced them. "London is a genuine and pretty successful mixture of races and people and you're left to get on with your own life."

On Thursday, we had coffee in a place off Camden High Street, though it might have been in Berlin or Amsterdam. Then we went to huy his book

thought it might be in the basement under "sociology" - as attractive a category as "offal" in a butcher's shop. Sure enough, there it lay among the equivalent of pigs' feet. It deserves much better than that

STILL IAN BURUMA'S book had a launch party and not every book has that. It was held in the flat of its publisher, Lord Weidenfeld, which overlooks the Thames from Cheisea Embankment. A fine place, as you might imagine: tapestries and paintings, bookshelves that go all the way to the ceiling. I was trying not to envy it when an eminent writer came up and asked straight out if Pd like to live there the believes in directness). There was something about

his question that invited the answer no, so I began to give an equivocal reply, as though flats on Chelsea Embankment were there for my choosing. "Well, a nice view of the river ..." I began. "Yes, yes, yes," said the writer, "but the street, the

street, the street: Imagine the noise, noise, traffic all day and all night." He screwed up his face. The location was repugnant - "a terrible place". Then I remembered I had

been here before. 20 years ago, as a reporter on a Sunday paper. Another party, another crush, the same (or certainly very similar) manservants to take your coat and squeeze through with the canapes. That evening tmost evenings in 1978) I was wearing a second-hand suit which I'd bought from a friend in Glasgow who dealt in them. He'd consult the deaths column in the Glascore Herald and then call by the homes of the deceased to see if their clothes were for sale. Most of the these dead men's suits went to Zambia, a sweaty destination for the worsted of old Glasgow businessmen, but

It was a pretty good suit, made in Savile Row before the war. I liked the lining, the "by appointment" crest on the tailor's label. It cost a fiver Per-

export crate.

mine had been spared from the

haps it was a little short in the an unsolicited invitation to a leg, rather too baggy everyhealth farm. where else. Perhaps it was a mistake to wear it with a col-

been a little torn. Anyway, for whatever reason, my host seemed to take against it. Or that's my assumption, because a week later I had a strange and slightly ominous conversation with the paper's fashion editor. How would I like to be "made over" for an appearance in the fashion pages? Picture of me in old suit, picture of me smartly reborn in new suit: contrast and compare. I declined but grew anxious. Where had this idea come from? From the editor.

larless shirt, which might have

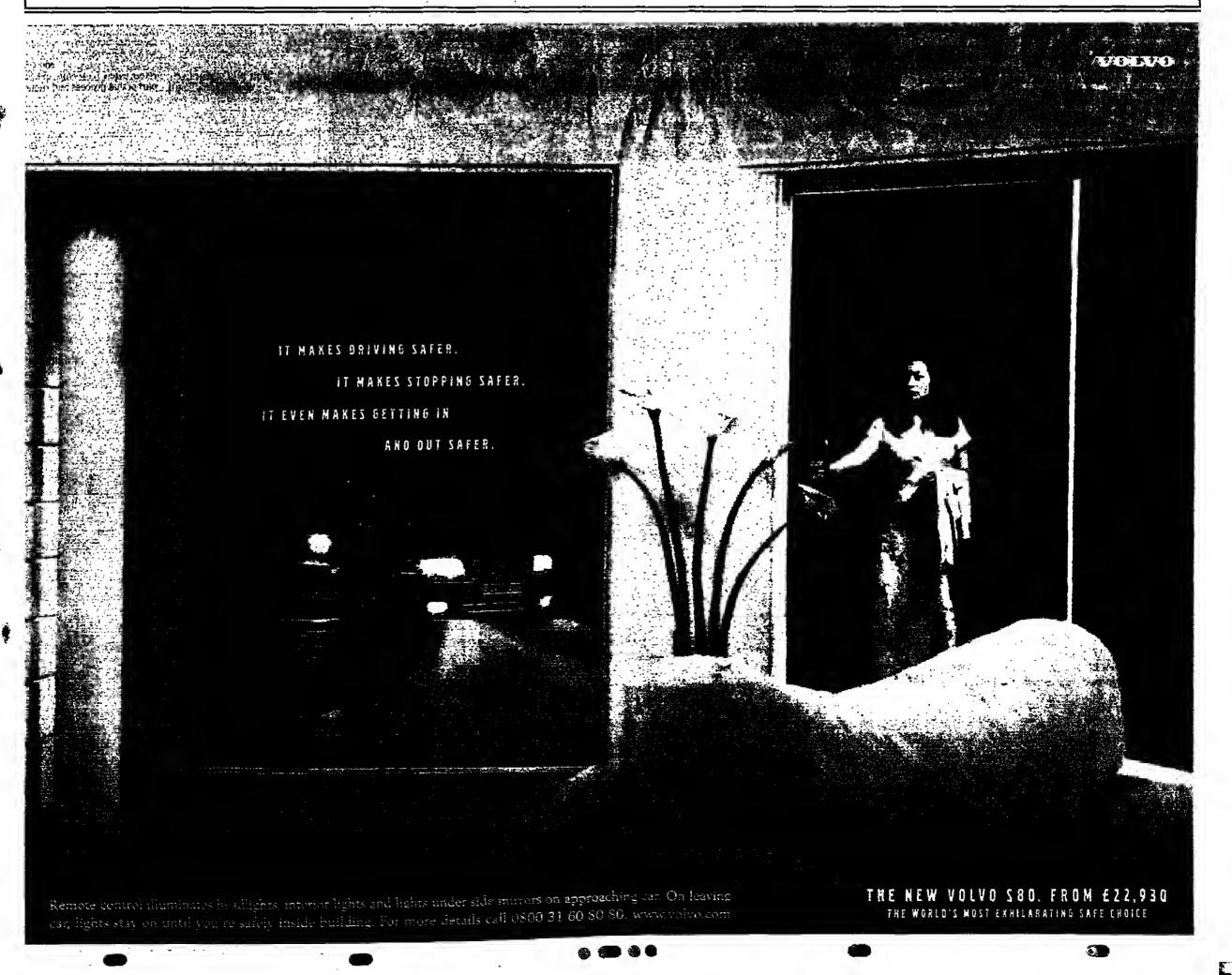
Had it originated with him? No, not quite ... The trail eventually led to the Chelsen Embankment. Twenty years later, wishing to smoke a cigarette in this same room, I moved well away from the host and his far-reaching influence. Otherwise, one day the editor may ring: "I've just been talking to Lord Z, I was

TELEVISION programmers have a strange opinion of our sensititivies. Last Sunday of termoon, in the same tradition which dropped films involving car crashes after Diana died. the BBC rescheduled a showing of King Solomon's Mines with an announcement that implied the reason was the recent slaughter of some British and

American tourists in Africa.

On a succession of recent

Thursday nights, however, you could hear a chef with Tourette's syndrome start his half-hour of profanity at 9pm on the dot - just after the kids, if you're lucky, have been put to bed. I've never seen or heard on television such a detestable figure as the chef in question, the playground bully Gordon Ramsay. With luck, his cowering staff will shove him in a pot, boil him for six hours, and then serve him in slices on beds of lentils to the foolish (but rich)



GM peas are safe, sacked scientist says

BY STEVE CONNOR Science Editor

ARPAD PUSZTAL, the scientist whose claims that genetically modified potatoes damaged laboratory rats prompted a huge political and scientific controversy, has concluded that GM peas are quite harmless.

In new research submitted to a scieotific journal, Dr Pusztal found there was "no detrimental effect" on the health of rats fed on peas that had been genetically modified in a similar way to the potatoes.

The new findings cast doubt on the suggestion - made by Dr Pusztai and his supporters that the rats in the potato experiment suffered as a result of eating GM food. The results support the view that the rats' ill health was due to eating raw potatoes, which are well known to be nutritionally poor.

Dr Pusztai was suspended and forced into retirement from the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen last August after a television interview, in which he claimed that rats fed



Dr Pusztai: New research

GM potatoes had stunted internal organs and defective immune systems. But his latest research paper, submitted to the Journal of Nutrition in the US, observes that GM peas which contained an insecticidal agent derived from a bean plant had no discernible effect on laboratory animals. They also proved to be just as outritious

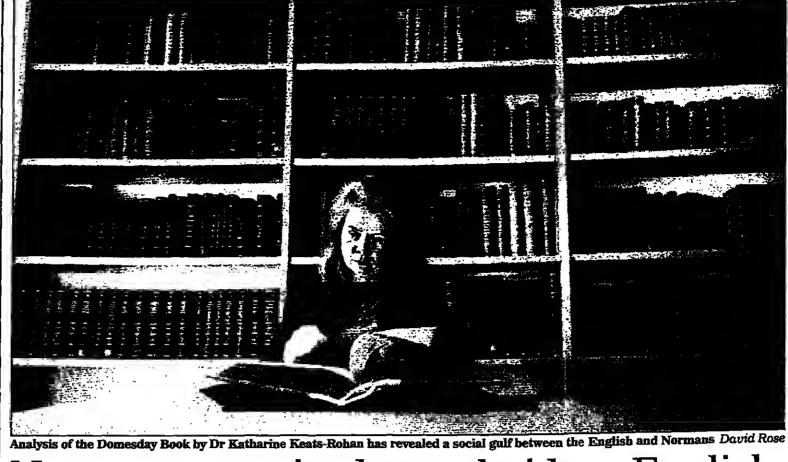
as ordinary peas. Dr Pusztai did not mentioo the research when he appeared before the Science and Tech-

nology Committee of the House of Commons last Monday, when he told MPs that he had oo regrets over the statements he made to the media about the dangers of GM food. He was also asked why he had suggested that the public were being used as guinea pigs to test the safety of GM food. He replied that it was because there had been so little re-

search proving it was safe. The Royal Society, Britain's most prestigious scientific institution, has launched an investigation into Dr Pusztai's work. The six leading specialists appointed as independent arbiters will report their conclusions next mooth.

■ Lord Sainsbury of Turville, the Science minister, has ordered a review of the way the Government handles issues of public concern such as genetic engineering and cloning, it was announced vesterday.

There will be consultation and research into public knowledge and attitudes about science which could be used to inform policy-making.



Normans practised apartheid on English

A NEW STUDY of the Domes- By DAVID KEYS day Book has found life in Archaeology Correspondent England after the Norman Conquest was a "medieval version of apartheid", with the English living as secood-class

citizens in their own land. The divide between the 1.5 millioo Anglo-Saxons and the 20.000 Normans was even

greater than historians previously thought, according to an eight-year research project by an Oxford medievalist, Dr Katharine Keats-Rohan. Her detailed genealogical

analyses of the 11th century

Domesday Book and 12th century manuscripts have reealed that in the 100 years following the Norman conquest there was virtually no inter-marriage between the Norman aristocracy and the English. In the top 10 Norman families, there was no intermarriage at all for several

centuries. Among a further this was definitely not the 2,000 Norman families, the inter-marriage rate was less than 5 per cent for at least four generations.

"Most historians have assumed there was substantial intermarriage between the Normans and the English. My research has revealed that

case," said Dr Keats-Rohan. 'I believe it shows the Normans considered themselves to be socially and ethnically élite. It was socially unacceptable to mix with the English. In terms of ethnic superiority and social separation, it was a medieval forerunner of apartheid."



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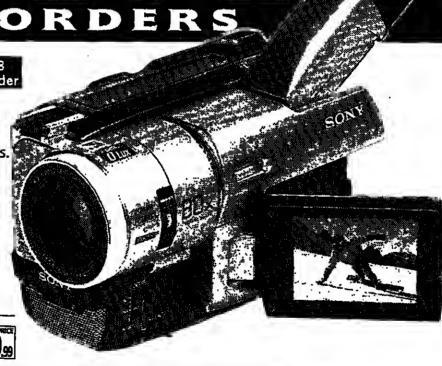
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Lottery to fund new city parks A SCHEME to create more By Linus GREGORIADIS

urban parks and playing fields was unveiled by the Government yesterday. The £125m project, funded by the National Lottery, will benefit schools, councils and community groups, who will be able to apply for grants to transform their local landscape.

Money will be allocated to buy derelict land and improve the steep decline of land available for outdoor sport, which has seen an estimated 10,000 playing fields sold to developers in the past 20 years. The 'green spaces initiative" will be

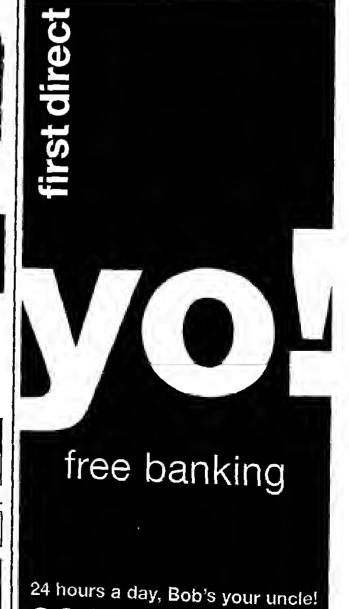
spread over three years. thousands of school playing fields have been sold off, leaving youngsters with fewer green areas to play in and develop their sporting prowess whilst at the same time many lies unused. This scheme will benefit children, schools, com-

munity groups and our national sporting future."

Labour has promised to tackle the decline in school and grassroots sport; under the last government local authorities sold off 5.000 playing field sites to raise money.

Last year David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for existing green areas. It is hoped Education, introduced an the scheme will help reverse amendment to the School Standards and Framework Bill which required local authorities to seek his approval before selling school playing fields that the Sports Council thought should be retained.

The Government also hopes Chris Smith, the Secretary of its scheme will encourage State for Culture and Sport, said greater access to the countryyesterday: "It is a tragedy that side and improve the envirooment through recycling schemes. Mr Smith said: "The green spaces initiative is aimed at giving communities the opportunities to improve the environment, delivering social acres of former industrial land and economic benefits, building community skills and bringing communities together."



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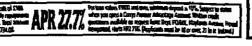
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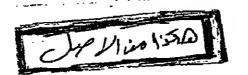
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Killer put lover's head in concrete

was jailed for life yesterday for Crime Correspondent murdering his lover and encasing her head in a concrete block had previously tried to hire a hitman to kill his wife and daughter, it later emerged.

Kenneth Peatfield, 50, of Sheffield, was found guilty of men on the jury at Sheffield murdering his partner Susan Craven, 54, whom he planned to replace with his teenage lover.

Mrs Craven's head, which was probably cut off with a power saw, was found in a two-

feet block of concrete at the house she shared with Peatfield The rest of the dead woman's remains have never been from?

The nine women and three Crown Court gasped when they learned after giving yesterday's vertict that Peatfield had earlier been convicted of trying to kill his wife and 10-year-old daughter. He was jailed for 10 man to murder his wife Janet and daughter Helen. part of a garden ornament.

He had planned to inherit £50,000 through an insurance policy, but the plot back-fired when the hit-man refused to carry out the killings and went to police. His ex-wife Janet, now 50, said at the time of the trial; "He was a good husband and father and I was so shocked that he could do such a thing."

In his defence in this latest

case, Peatfield claimed that

Jailing him for life yesterday, Mr Justice Bell said: "You murdered the woman with whom you had lived for some years. A woman who needed your support. You murdered her when yon were infatnated with a much younger woman who you

head with one he had made as

hoped would come to live with you in Susan Craven's place." Peatfield did not react as

the verdict was announced at showed her the body of Mrs ed going out with Peatfield and crete block containing his wife's Sheffield Crown Court, but relatives of Mrs Craven sighed with relief.

> The jury was told that Mrs Craven disappeared on 5 March last year. Two days later, Peatfield took his lover, Faith Warner 17, to the home and told her: "I'm going to show you something now that is going to change your life."

Michael Murphy QC, prosecuting, said Peatfield led Miss Warner into a brick outhouse,

Craven under a blue tarpaulin sheet, and said: "I did it so I could be with you."

Miss Warner now 18, of Ashton, Greater Manchester, said Peatfield threatened her after showing her the body. "He grabbed both of my

erally, and he shook me and said: 'If you tell anybody I will kill you and I will kill your fam-

arms and he went blood-red, lit-

She was 17 when she start-

became pregnant with his baby in 1987. "He was very lively, he made me laugh, he was quite a bubbly person. I wasn't bothered about the age difference. although he was worried I would trade him in for a

younger model." she said. Peatfield told a series of lies to friends and neighbours, saying Mrs Craven had left him after an argument. But they did not believe him and eventually reported Mrs Craven missing.

day after Peatfield was charged with the murder that detectives. examined the block of concrete. Forensic scientists found spots of blood in the dining room, on the carpet and on the curtains of the couple's home.

Peatfield, a consultant engi neer, who stood to gain more than £200,000 from Mrs Craven's death, denied having murdered her. He said they had a great relationship and never argued.

Females are better at burglary

WOMEN ARE considerably bet- By IAN BURRELL ter burglars than men. according to newly released Home Office research.

1,639,000 burglaries on domestic properties in England and Wales during 1997 has revealed the previously unheralded role of women in house-breaking. Of the burglaries where details of the offender were known (41 per cent of breakins), six per cent of the burglars

were women acting alone. But these female thieves accounted for a disproportion- anti-burglary initiative in areas ately high nine per cent of successful hurgiaries, which totalled 878,000 in the year.

They were responsible for only one per cent of attempted but failed burglaries, of which there were 761,000 in 1997.

Although burglary is invariably regarded as a crime committed by strangers, victims of burglaries where the details of the offender were known said that they knew the person well in 34 per cent of cases and recognised their face in a further 17 per cent.

The Home office report, Burglary of Domestic Dwellings, reveals that the highest proportion of bungled hurgiaries are carried out by schoolchildren, who fail to gain entry to property in the majority of their attempted breakins. The report was based on answers given to researchers for the 1998 British Crime Survey

The report shows that home security measures are having a marked impact on reducing the numbers of successful burglaries. In nearly half of all attempted break-ins in 1997, the criminals failed to gain access to the property.

The Home Office minister Paul Boateng said that the research showed that "the simHome Affairs Correspondent

plest home security measures A detailed analysis of the can have a significant impact on our chances of being burgled".

By reducing the number of easy targets we can Have a dramatic effect on crime. But, he said: "Despite recent reductions, England and Wales has one of the worst records on burglary in the industrialised world." He said the Government was investing £50m over the next three years on an with high crime rates.

The research revealed that Asian families are more likely to he burglary victims than other ethnic groups.

Also vulnerable are homes where the head of the household is between 16 and 24, single parent families, and those living in detached houses or inner-city areas.

Ownership of home security devices has increased dramatically over the last six years and 24 per cent of homes now have burglar alarms, with 48 per cent having security lights. Some 48 per cent of burglars

entered the property they robbed from the rear but 42 per cent broke in at the front of the

A lock on a door or a window is forced in 37 per cent of breakins and a window is broken in 24 per cent of such crimes. But in almost a quarter (22

per cent) of cases the criminal is able to gain entry to the property through an unlocked door or open window.

In six per cent of cases, faced the millernial issue headon with metallic leather skirts, access is gained to the house on



Karl Lagerfeld with models at his autumn/winter ready-to-wear collection for Chanel in Paris vesterday

Fashion emperor's new clothes

cent broke in at the front of the dwelling, with 70 per cent of all sont stores for Karl successful break-ins being made through a door.

Most burglaries occur when the offender forces their way in the offender forces th tramped down what seemed

> Chanel autumn/winter 2000 show in Paris yesterday. The clothes were no less expansive than the show's setting, from ultra-sharp modernity to country-estate chic to lavish eveningwear Lagerfeld

like a mile-long catwalk at the

the season's favourite - felted As ever he encompassed the trends of the moment:

shearling was cut into neat waist-length jackets; a capecoat appeared in chocolatecoloured leather and buttersoft tan suede, along with fine colourful tweed, were given the all-important modern outsized silver chain belts and Chanel spin, in body-sculpted

bags. So, with one eye on commercialism and the other looking to the future, he offered ouilted skirts that mimicked the

quilted Chanel handbag. He also cieverly incorporated the much-maligned Chanel 2001 bag - the futuristic ergonomic design, which took almost two years to create - but this time around it looked more accessible in soft cream wool.

skirts. Lagerfeld knows his honcho or thame, the customer through and through prestigious of all fashion hous-He is also obviously aware of es, he poked fun at the history Lagerfeld poached from John of the label by brandishing the linked-C logo on everything from moonboots to a milk-bottie-top-sized bikini bra. In more recent seasons he took the label right back to its roots, paying homage to the great Coco Chanel. Then, again last season, the modern image-maker moved the look into the sports-

those who surround him. His talent is in being able to decipher current moods while retaining a sense of the great wear arena - another sign that Chanel history - and this seathe designer had his finger son that is exactly what he firmly on the pulse. Some put

these changes down to the inhas undoubtedly had great impact on Chanel's recent evolution, it is Lagerfeld at the end of the day who decides whether to implement new ideas of

Doctors warned on bone disease

BY JEREMY LAURANCE Health Editor

MASS SCREENING of the population for the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis is not worthwhile and checks should be limited to those at high risk, an expert commuter: said yesterday.

The Royal College of Physicians called for those with signs of osteoporosis to be identified and treated at an early stage to prevent the condition worsening, causing pain and disabili-ty to the sufferer and costing the NHS almost £1bn a year.

In new guidelines, the college said osteoporosis is often wrongly labelled as a woman's disease. It affects 40 per cent of women over 70 but the risk for men is as much as half that for

It causes 200,000 fractures a year and the number is rising by 10 percent a year. Over the next 50 years the number of fractures is expected to double because of the ageing popula-

The guidelines say doctors should be aware of treatments for osteoporosis that can reduce the risk of repeated fractures. It says health experts should co-ordinate their activities with a focus on reducing the huge burden of fractures suffered by patients".

However, the National Osteoporosis Society said there were too few bone density scantest those at high risk, defined as women (or men) who have lost height, suffered a "fragile" fracture (as a result of a minor accident) or taken steroid drugs for over six months.

Linda Edwards, the director, said: "The report demonstrates that current provision for osteoporosis in many areas is under-prioritised and under-

Anti-woman priest worships in a shed

priests turn to Rome. But one disaffected Church of England vicar looked no further than the shed in his back garden for the answer to his spiritual dilemma.

The Rev Stephen Weston, who left the Church of England last summer over the ordination of women priests, has constructed a cross-shaped wooden chapel in the garden of his terraced house in Sutton, Norfolk. He calls it: "Stephen's Byzantine Shed". The former rector of Sutton with Ingham and Catfield, in the Norfolk Broads, was received into the Orthodox Church last October. Mr Weston has been licensed as an Orthodox reader, which gives him the authority to conduct services.

He has a congregation of five - mostly disaffected Anglicans -who fit quite neatly into his 18 feet by 13 feet chapel. But it's a bit of a squeeze when Father Alexander Haig, the local Or-

MOST OPPONENTS of women By Clare Garner Religious Affairs Correspondent

a false pretence.

thodox priest from Colchester. visits once a month. "I'm tall and thin, so I manage," said Mr

Weston, "hut he is ... broader." Yesterday was the fifth amiversary of the ordination of the first women priests in Bristol Cathedral, an event which triggered the exodus of 440 Anglican clergymen. Mr Weston, 50, would have left earlier, but he had to hold on until he had done 20 years service in the

"The ordination of women priests was the last straw for me," he said yesterday. "It signified that the bishops who pushed it forward did not regard themselves as guar-

priesthood in order to qualify for

dians of the apostolic faith. The Church of England ceased to be my spiritual home. I only started in October so it's Discovering Orthodoxy was early days yet."

like discovering the pearl of great price."

His chapel, which cost £2,000 to build, is dedicated to St Fursey, an Irish saint who arrived in Norfolk in 633. If the congregation hits double figures, Mr Weston will have to find other premises. "When I put in my applica-

tion to the council I said it was a private chapel, not a public place of worship," he said.
"I promised that if we ever got into double figures, we would look elsewhere."

For now, Mr Weston is safe. He holds services three times day, at which he is generally the sole worshipper. On Thursdays the full complement of five attends Bible studies and vespers, and on high days and holidays, such as St Fursey's Day in January, a record 17 turned un. "It has a semi-monastic feel about it," said Mr Weston, "but



Stephen Weston in the Orthodox chapel he built in his back garden Grant Norman

Appeal Court backs trader in fight with Elvis's estate

THE MIGHTY Elvis Presley BY CATHY GORDAN AND Enterprises yesterday lost the

latest round of a David and Goliath legal wrangle to stop a -London trader from using the singer's name on his souvenirs. Three Court of Appeal idges rejected a challenge by EPE, of Memphis, Tennessee,

to an earlier court ruling in

JAN COLLEY

memorabilia shop called

Elvisly Yours. Mr Shaw, whose shop in the Piccadilly Circus sells articles from watches to toiletries that bear the singer's name, won a favour of Sid Shaw, who runs a ruling from a High Court judge

Presley's name.

After that ruling EPE took Appeal, challenging the deci-Trocadero Centre in London's sion by Mr Justice Laddle that a celebrity's name, whether they are living or dead, cannot be used as a trademark. His ruling led to the rejection

have the sole right to Elvis an application to register reaching effect on all stars and Diana, Princess of Wales.

At the Court of Appeal in their case to the Court of London yesterday, Lords Justices Simon Brown, Morritt and Walker gave their decision in a case which lawyers say has "wide commercial importance in the trademark world". Mr Shaw said that today's

celebrities living or dead". EPE was refused leave to

appeal to the House of Lords by the three judges, but it can still apply directly to the Law Lords themselves to hear the case.

A jubilant Mr Shaw said after the ruling: "I'm delighted. I've proved that Elvis belongs

in March 1997 that EPE did not by the Trade Mark Registry of judgment "will have a far- to all of us - Elvis is part of our history, part of our culture. "They tried to put me out of business and they haven't suc-

ceeded. I'm still here." In rejecting EPE's appeal Lord Justice Brown said that there should be no "assumption that only a celebrity or his successors may ever market his

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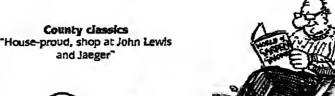
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THE SEVEN TYPES OF SPENDER

and Boss suits are part of





Young survivors







Budget optimists "Don't need their egos massaging

Deadliest shopping species is the male

RESEARCHERS HAVE utilised "spies" and spent five years video-taping thousands of consumers to identify for retailers the seven definitive types of British shopper.

Young fashionables

"In search of an identity"

They range from the "county classics" (married women over 35) to "young fashionables" (in search of an identity). But by far the most worrying type for retailers - men who suffer symptoms of gumentative and may exhibit before arriving at the shops.

David Peek, a psychotherapist with a background in marketing, interviewed consumers in the south-east to create the psychographic pro-

BY CLARE GARNER

centre, which opens in Kent on Tuesday. The shopping centre used the information to design a "psychologically tested" car park, "welcome halls" and a shopper-friendly map, in an attempt to thwart the saboteur.

Shopping is a bit like dancing," Mr Peek said. "Your they are motivated, they'll "shopping overload". They have more fim than anyone." may become quiet and unre- He recommended taking sponsive or twitchy and ar- hourly breaks, planning lunch somewhere "to break up the day" and agreeing on a spending limit in advance.

He said county classics is the largest cluster "These shoppers are particularly interested in success; they are concerned about what others think of them and cynical has a touch of this about her."

Young fashionables are interested in "cosmetics, grooming and, because they are insecure, they are concerned about their visual health rather than their deep heaith", said Mr Peek, who identified a growing number of men in this bracket. David

Beckham is a "classic". reer-oriented people who are seeking status merchandise. Efficiency is essential when dealing with these men - and, increasingly, women. "They have a very short patience threshold when doing business. They are constantly comparing the service to that to which they aspire in their own business life," he said.

When it comes to catering

about fashion. Penelope Keith derly customers with traditional tastes - the secret is to avoid challenging their outlook on life. "Home comfortables like to be served by people their own age," Mr Peek said.

Shopping can be therapy for the "young survivors". Mr Peek said: "These people have little talent in selling their skills and therefore have difthey will find [shopping] a

boost to their self-esteem." "Sporting thirties" are people who refuse to grow up.
They really don't want to shop. They want to go to a bar," Mr Peek said. Then there are the "budget optimists" the stoic South London types. They can live without the "ego

Store of old virtues battles to keep trade

BY DARIUS SANAI

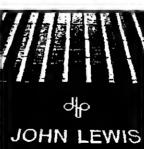
JOHN LEWIS, the favourite retailer of the suburban middle classes, is going through a rocky patch. Its full-year profits are down 17 per cent, and its chairman. Sir Stuart Hamp son, has warned of a "sticky few

months ahead". Its stores have made little concession to the changing trends of modern retailing. In its flagship Oxford Street store, for example, the floors and walls are still beige and the displays understated, in contrast to those in funkier chain shops across the road. The haberdashery section looks delight-fully archaic - belonging in an old colonial capital rather than the centre of London's busiest

shopping street. And this is what is hobbling the company in the battle for shoppers. "My son refuses to come here, whatever I say," said David Holmes, a regular customer at the Oxford Street shop. "He is 30 now, but he still

says it's 'uncool'." Sir Stuart agreed yesterday that the store's image ("of the place where your parents dragged you when you were a child") was unlikely to endear it to twenty somethings. But he insisted the downturn was merely part of a general trend. I see huge problems ahead but not insurmountable ones. Like anyone else, we will have to adapt," he said.

The John Lewis approach



'Old-fashioned values'

has its die-hard fans. Vicky Bi-nendon, a mother of four from North London who has been a John Lewis regular for 25 years, said: "It's marvellous it always has been. And this is the only shop where they know what they are doing."

It seems the firm's old-fashioned values are what draw the customers. Mary Woodford, shopping for a tablecloth, said: "Somehow they manage to keep the prices so reasonable but the assistants are not just young people on a training scheme who don't care," she said. In fact, the company's staff is dominated by full-time, long-term employees - all the better for customer service, but a costly and inflexible practice that requires many of the chain's 23 shops to be closed on

Sundays and Mondays. Reliability dependability and value have always been the stores' watchwords. But these values are also of an old, less



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THE INDEPENDENT
Saturday 13 March 1909



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Schroder takes a sharp turn to the right

GERHARD SCHRÖDER seized By IMRE KARACS the reins of the Social Democrat party yesterday and executed a sharp right-turn. Upon the news of Oskar Lafontaine's departure, German business leapt for joy, with Frankfurt's main share index jumping 6 per cent yesterday.

But while Mr Schröder's allies were quick to pronounce a "new beginning" after the fiascos of recent months, the party's left wing sulked.

There was only one candidate, Mr Schröder himself, for the vacant post of chairman, yet six members of the party's presidium cast their votes against him, and three more

Mr Schröder won easily, as one might expect of the reigning Chancellor, but in a divisive manner, obtaining only 23 of the 32 votes available. "He does not represent the breadth of the party," explained Andrea Nahles, the head of the Social Democrats' youth wing.

Therein lies the difficulty Mr Schröder faces in his attempt to carve the party in his own image. The voting ratio of the presidium, a body he has been busily packing with his own people, is flattering in comparison with the balance of power at the grassroots level.

Mr Lafontaine bad not become chairman by accident. a dressing down by the Chan-He articulated most members' sentiments, and was deeply loved by almost all of them. With Mr Schröder, the relationship is that of business, rather than pleasure. Trouble lies abead.

Mr Lafontaine did not utter a word yesterday. Locked away agenda in hiture. The Social in his home at Saarbrücken, he Democrats' programme 'will seemed set to spend the com- be "where necessary, further ing months in internal exile, silently waiting for the call of his Mr Schröder's spokesman

confirmed the Chancellor had tried to reach him yesterday but that Mr Lafontaine had not returned his calls.

in Berlin

the party, ends on a chillingly cynical note: "I wish you suc-cess in your future work forfreedom, justice and solidarity."

Rearguard action by the left was already evident yesterday. After hints that Mr Lafontaine's tax reforms would be dumped, Mr Schröder himself was forced to declare that this was not to be the case. The bill will be submitted to the upper chamber next week, as planned. Any adjustments would come later, he hastened to add.

There are certain to be many. The new Finance Minister, Hans Eichel, is a strong believer in taxes that encourage the creation of jobs. His first big task will be to reform enterprise tax, so that business in Germany has a chance against foreign competition.

"Hans Eichel has the knowledge and the ability." Mr Schröder said yesterday. "He is someone you don't need to spend ages talking to, he can take quick decisions." Surely there was no dig intended at Mr Lafontaine's famous vacil-

Mr Schröder refused to "speculate" yesterday on the easons for Mr Lafontaine's sudden resignation. It followed cellor in front of the entire cabinet, and a long and stormy tête-à-tête on Wednesday. But there was no hiding the

policy differences between the two men, and the Chancellor's determination to set the party's agenda in huture. The Social developed in open discussions", he pledged.

The relaunched Schröder government will be more voterfriendly, he promised. The first illustration of the new line is the reformed citizenship law, an issue which brought the Red-His one statement on the Green government of Hesse to affair, the resignation note to a crushing defeat last month.



Wolfgang Clement, the Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia arrives for an emergency meeting of the Social Democrat party leadership in Bonn yesterday following the resignation of Oskar Lafontaine Reu

but not to the extent the Greens had wanted. They had proposed that new Germans be allowed to keep their old passports

On Thursday Mr Schröder cut a deal with the opposition Free Democrats. There will still be a reformed bill, but one more palatable to Middle Germany, with fewer double nationals floating about. In effect, the Chancellor extended his coalition to a party which used to prop up the Kohl government. This arrangement applies to only this bill, and no

one is talking of precedents. It is merely a coincidence that the Free Democrats are the party closest to business.

Nevertheless, the Greens, who have had disagreements of their own with Mr Schröder read the situation as a gun pointed at their heads. Amid the drama of the past two days, they have been painfully well-mannered, rushing to plead their allegiance to the new order, and distance themselves from their old mentor, Mr Lafontaine.

World markets, page 19 Outlook, page 21

Comrade of the bankers starts work

BY IMRE KARACS

AFTER THE finance minister ditched because he could not get his taxes to work comes the tax man. Hans Eichel, 57, entrusted with unscrambling Oskar Lafontaine's legacy, may be somewhat challenged in the charisma department but he knows a lot about taxes.

Mr Eichel, Prime Minister of Hesse, has for the past year been the Social Democrats' finance policy co-ordinator in parliament's upper chamber, the Bundesrat. Before that he was one of the party's chief advisers in last year's talks with the then governing Christian Democrats. Opposition and government had tried in vain to work out a common tax reform. Now he gets the chance to do

it alone, and the business world is delighted. Chancellor Gerhard Schroder is mocked by traditionalist Social Democrats as the "Comrade of the Bosses". Mr Eichel, whose fieldom in Hesse runs through Frankfurt, is nicknamed the "Comrade of the Bankers".

But he is not without leftist credentials. A keen participant of student protests in the Sixties, he started his Social Democrat career as a left-winger. Kassel, his home town, was declared nuclear-free during his stint as mayor, Hesse, which he has governed since 1991, is reputed to be the best-run Social



buoyed by his elevation

Like Mr Schroder, Mr Eichel works hard to keep business happy and lobbies energetical for new investment. He intervened to ensure that Opel. one of the region's biggest employers, injects new capital into

s Hesse plants. Mr Eichel is serving his last month as Hesse Prime Minister after losing the regional elections last month. His defeat owed fittle to his record and more to the campaign by his Christian Democratic opponents against plans by the Bonn government to extend German citizenship to long-

term foreign residents. Unlike his predecessor. Mr Eichel holds no strong views on tax harmonisation, currency speculators or European interest rates. He is a strong fan of the euro, and a supporter of the European Central Bank. which is based in Frankfurt.

Starr's spin doctor resigns over leak

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

KENNETH STARR, the man who led the investigation into President Bill Clinton's affairs. is now himself the subject of an investigation. The government inquiry into his office is just part of the complex legal tangle left behind after the impeachment saga came to an end earlier this year, and no end is in sight. Mr Starr's office has been ac-

cused of leaking to the press, mishandling the interrogation of Monica Lewinsky, and of having links to lawyers who were already investigating the President on accusations of sexual harassment

He denied these charges, but late on Thursday night, the first shoe dropped. Mr Starr's spokesman, Charles Bakaly, resigned after an internal investigation into a story that appeared in the New York Times. Mr Starr's office handed the affair over to the US Justice Department, which will mount its own investigation.

Mr Bakaly was hired, ironically, to improve Mr Starr's public relations. After the NYT article appeared, Mr Bakaly went on television to deny he was the source. "We do not leak

clearly angry to be in the spotbight, and they suspect political motivation on the part of Janet seems as the closer we get to the president ... that they have all of a sudden insisted on conducting a very intrusive inves-



Charles Bakaly, spokesman for Kenneth Starr

Robert Bittman, one of Mr Starr's former top officials. Mr Bittman's comments

make clear that in the view of some of Mr Starr's associates, the inquiry into Mr Clinton is far grand jury information," he said. from over "There still are mat-The Starr investigators are ters to be investigated," he said. Indeed, the story in the New York Times reported that Mr Starr's team believed that Reno, the Attorney General. "It it could still press charges against the President.

It is not clear how the inquiry into Mr Starr will be handled. He is still involved in another case, tigation into the heart of what involving Susan McDongel a for- as it is easy to say that the curwe have been doing," said mer business partner of Mr rent system does not work.

Clinton. He alleges that a loan in Mr Clinton's name was linked to a fraudulent loan to Mrs Mc-Dougal Nor is the Whitewater land deal dead as an issue. The law which is the basis for

all this activity, and for Mr

Starr's appointment, is partly the cause of these legal shenanigans, and Congress is rethinking it. Almost nobody was satisfied with the way the imeachment saga was handled, but it will be just as difficult to agree on a new way of probing ed abuses by senior officials

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Princess who escaped from a desert cage

UNTIL SHE was 16. Malika By JOHN LICHFIELD Outkir was an adopted princess, a pampered child in a clandestine world of concubines, despots and slaves. She lived in a world beyond time, a world of the most unimaginable luxury.

At the age of 19, sbe and her entire family, including her twoyear-old brother, and her sisters aged six and nine, were thrown into prison for 20 years.

time, growing to adult womanhood, in a remote and barbaric desert jail. isolated from her mother and oldest hrother, often close to starvation. She was once again in a world beyond time, hut now a world of the most unimaginable cru-

In her first life, her adopted "father", the king, was her loving, sometimes severe but always affectionate benefactor. In her second life, the same man was ber pitiless jailer, her distant torturer, the man who robbed her brother and sisters of their childhood. Her only crime and that of her family was their name. Her real father, General Mohammed Oufkir, once the king's most trusted adviser, had tried to assassinate the monarch. The general was executed and his family banished, walled away from the world without trial or charge, until 14 years later, when Malika and three of ber siblings tunnelled to temporary freedom with their bare bands.

It could be a tale from The 1,001 Nights, except that it happened in the Seventies, Eighties and Nineties and not in modern Morocco, a country with which the West enjoys friendly - even obsequious relations. The king in question was Hassan II, one of the West's favourite Arab potentates. While Malika and ber family were in prison, King Hassan was negotiating the release of the US embassy hostages in Iran and trying to in Paris

emigrate to France.

broker peace with Saddam Hussein before the Gulf War. Three years ago, Malika Outkir and her family, after a final nine years of bouse arrest and restricted freedom in Morocco, were permitted to

She has now written her life She spent ten years of that story in a book called La Prisonniere which has shot to the top of the non-fiction best-sellers list in France. An Englishlanguage edition is planned. The title of the book applies almost as much to the first part of her life, in gilded but enforced royal adoption, as the second

It is an extraordinary book, co-authored by the French journalist and writer Michèle Fitoussi: a fascinating insider's account of life in a modern harem in the early pages; a moving chronicle of suffering and courage and endurance in prison; and then a heart-stopping thriller when Malika and her siblings escape.

At times the book touches greatness. Malika Oufkir. despite the injustice and suffering imposed an her and her family, manages to write about her father/jailer with affection, generosity, even compassion. "This is why I had to write

the book, because I was haunted by two men," she said, in an interview. The king who had brought me up, who had shaped my education, who made me what I am, whom I still loved. And the king who some mythical kingdom but in was my torturer, my executioner. In my dreams, in prison, and since being released, the two men would appear. I would feel terribly guilty that I could not escape from my feelings of affection for him, while, also hating him for what be did to me and my family. It was often physically painful for me but in writing the book I was determined to be honest, to express

Malika Oufkir is a tall, siender, elegant, beautiful woman of 45, married last year to a Parisian architect. She has the great wisdom but also the vouthfulness - almost the childishness - found in intelligent people whose lives have heen taken from them and belatedly

restored. (It might be called the

Nelson Mandela syndrome). The act of writing the book, she says, has helped her to achieve a kind of serenity. She can now understand that the king who put his adopted daughter and her two-year-old brother in prison was not the man that she had known as a child. He had himself been consumed hy hatred and wounded by betrayal".

And yet it is clear from the book that the degree of cruelty imposed on Malika and her family was personally contrelled by Hassan. Members of his own family, including the Queen, pleaded for clemency. Instead, each time the Oufkir family wrote to the king asking for their freedom, their conditions were made worse.

Only when they tunnelled out, and managed to tell the world their story before they were re-captured, was their life made more bumane.

Until then, they survived by imposing scrupulous rules of politeness towards one another, by rigging up a kind of makeshift intercom between their cells; and by a form of gallows burnour, When fleas infected the four sisters and their private parts became so swollen that they bung down to their thighs, they joked: "Now we girls have balls too."

A clandestine radio allowed them to keep abreast of world events - the march of the computer, the video-recorder, feminism, successive World Cups from their medieval cells. Most of all, the prisoners - Malika, her mother, two hrothers, four sisters and two cousins - came



soap opera, invented and broadcast by Malika through the hidden intercorn.

Every night, once the guards were sleeping, she tried to give her brothers and sisters, through the never-ending story, a sense of the pleasures and evils of the world of which they were deprived. Malika and family spent, not 1,001 nights, but 3,710 nights as the only pris-

to depend entirely on a kind of oners of their desert jail: they endured over 7,000 nights of imprisonment of one kind or another. "Each of my birthdays was like a dagger in my heart," she wrote in the book.

> "At 33, I became resigned. I would never fall in love. I would never have a family. Never would a man take me in his arms and whisper tender and burning words into my ear. "I would never know what

and partly wrong. On ber release, she met Eric, a French architect, in Rabat and married him last October. The damage too her body in prison means that she will probably never be able to have any children. The psychological damage is much

woman." She was partly right

arder to define. "Ever since I was a child,

moves the heart and body of a from my family so young, I have had the impression that I was a spectator in my own life," she said.

> "Now I have the impression that life is a great fairground and that I am permanently on the edge of it, looking in. I cannot be alone. I have to sleep with the light and radio on. And yet I crave solitude.

"Even when I am with other perhaps because I was taken, people, I am often alone."

Mafia boss run to ground

By FRANCES KENNEDY in Rome

ITALIAN POLICE say documents found in the hiding place of one of the country's most dangerous mafia bosses may lead them to other mobsters on

Giuseppe Piromalli was captured in a dawn raid on a luxury fortress disguised as a derelict building in Giota Tauro, the southern Italian city dominated by the ferocious Piromalli clan.

Along with cases of cham-pagne that the family used to celebrate the elimination of their enemies, the carabinieri seized papers, receipts and di-

Piromalli was one of the key figures of the Calabrian mafia. He was among the most wanted mafiosi in the country.

From the outside, the 54year-old Godfather's hideaway looked like an abandoned twostorey building. Inside it was a hunker apartment protected by devices worthy of a James Bond movie. Wooden panels operated hy remote controls covered the outside walls, sliding steel panels protected the

The sound of the pneumatic drills needed to hreak through the steel door awoke Piromalli, who attempted to flee through a trapdoor onto the rooftops.

However, on seeing carabinieri belicopters with strobe lights bovering above, be returned to his bedroom with its altar dedicated to the Madonna of Polsi, protector of the mountains where mafia members often take refuge. He was unarmed and did not oppose arrest

Piromalli, the favourite nephew and heir to the fearsome founder of the Piromalli clan, was sentenced to life in absentia in 1991 for the murder of two brothers who challenged the clan's supremacy.

In addition he was wanted for extortion and explosive attacks against the business empire of media tycoon Silvio

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Rich Pakistanis flock to country's first ski resort

BY JASON BURKE in Malam Jabba, Swat

ALAMGIR KHAN has a number of problems. The dozen local villagers who comprise his pisteflattening machine have not turned up for work, a power cut has stopped his only chairlift and an over-excited coach party who have driven a thousand miles just to see snow have, minutes previously, run down his slopes and left hundreds of deep footprints behind them.

As chief engineer at Pak-istan's only ski resort Mr Khan is having a bad day. Perhaps that is not surprising. After all it is a miracle that Pakistan one of the world's poorest coun-tries - has a working ski resort

Yet perched high on a ridge in the foothills of the Himalayas is Malam Jabba - two pistes, a 52-room hotel, a store room full of new ski gear and an approach road that, according to the local chief of police, you need armed

Malam Jabba is certainly an odd place for a ski resort. From the swinging chairs of the lift you can see some of the wildest parts of Pakistan's North West Frontier province and the distant snow-capped peaks that mark the border with Afghanistan. It is a view you have plenty of time to in-

spect when the power goes off. Only 70 years ago, the British fought some of their toughest campaigns to subdue tanks to destroy the pink the Pathan warrior tribes of the area and, in many ways, little has changed since. Until very Five years ago the Pakistani recently, the hills that line the western horizon used to conceal most of Pakistan's illegal opium fields and heroin refining laboratories. Until 1969, the region was ruled by the magnificently-titled Wali of Swat, on the area - has recently been and much of it remains effectively outside the control of central government.

Gunfire still regularly rattles



After a hesitant start skiers are beginning to head for Malam Jabba, built with Austrian aid

Kipling and scores of Boys' Own stories.

Last year the government was forced to use artillery and swaths of opium poppy fields that littered the local hillsides. army fought pitched battles against hardline Muslim extremists who had seized the local airport.

The insurgents' key demand that Islamic law be imposed conceded by the government in the capital of Islamabad, a down but now it looks like it is the capital of Islamabad, a seven-bour drive away. Now, all going to be all right", he said.

The Austrian government theoretically at least, if your skis the valleys - though now it is are stolen while you relax with came up with the idea of a ski more likely to be from a Kalash- a glass of lemonade - Pakistan resort more than 30 years ago.

nikov than the long-harrelled is a dry country - the thief's muskets immortalised by hands will be chopped off. hands will be chopped off However, Bakhtiar Hussein

the resort manager, is a jolly and friendly man. Last week be was in an excellent mood. For the first time since the Prime Minister opened the resort last autumn, all the rooms at his hotel were full. So far Malam Jabba has been losing an estimated £1,000 a month. Now Mr Hussein bopes it will start now." showing a profit.

"Winter has been tough. There have been times when we were worried and thought the government might close us

They have since provided around \$1m (£600,000) worth of aid, including a chairlift, skis and boots, technical belp and two all-weather hulldozers.

However, several million pounds of Pakistani public funds was also needed to get Malam Jabba working. Many complained that a ski resort was the wrong way to boost the development of a country where 80 per cent of the population cannot read and more than half lack a clean water

supply.

"At best it is misguided, at worst it's immoral," said one Islamabad-based development worker. "It's great for ex-pats or the very rich but is about as appropriate a way of helping the people of Pakistan as building them a school to train Sushi chefs."

Gernod Wiedner, first secretary of the Austrian Embassy in Islamabad, disagrees. "The development bas provided a road and employment for local people. We think it is largely a success," be said.

At the resort there are mixed feelings. Many of the workers at Malam Jabba have not been paid for the last two months. One man, trained as a ski technician by an Austrian instructor, said he was unable to pay for medical treatment for his sick child.

"The doctor charges 200 rupees (£2.75) for a visit, My child has a fever that has gone to her head but I can't afford even the doctor's visit let alone medicine," Hassan said.

"There is no electricity in my village and no gas, and wood is expensive so it is very cold

Hassan ruefully ran his hand down a newly-waxed ski and checked the sbarpness of the edges. "We are poor people so we are not ungrateful. We are just thankful to have jobs,"

be added. Suddenly the day's snow conditions seemed slightly less

Little

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Little islands watch helpless as their green gold is devalued by vengeful US

By PHIL DAVISON in St Lucia

THE PEOPLE of this little Caribbean island have always been a little confused. They are the first to admit it. Since an Italian named Columbus discovered the island on behalf of Spain but moved on, its inhabitants have been seven times under French rule, seven times British. For the past 20 years, they have been very much independent, though they still speak a French patois while driving on the British side of the

Whoever was in charge, they always knew they would be all right. They had what they call "green gold." By that, they mean bananas, as vital here as black gold" – oil – is to Texas. More so. You can eat bananas.

Now, the people of St Lucia, the other Windward Islands and most of the Caribbean renowned for reggae, rum, calypso and "chillin" – are upset They feel a modern-day friend, the United States of America. has let them down. Despite their independence - in the case of St Lucia granted by Britain 20 years ago last month they are turning their glance back towards the old colonial

They had lost touch with British politics, football, Coronation Street, even, in some cases, cricket, Instead, they had looked north to the US, flying to Miami for holidays putting basketball hoops in their yards and wearing their baseball caps hackwards. Now, "Come back, Britain, all is forgiven," is the sentiment, though only, of course, as allies, not

They are talking about the US decision to launch what is effectively a trade war against Europe, ostensibly over European concessions towards bananas from former colonies. To he honest, folks in the Caribbean, even banana farmers, are not only concerned about themselves. They are mystified as to why the US has picked on Caribbean bananas -which make up only a few per



Many in the Caribbean believe the trade war stems from US fears of a strong, united Europe. As one official put, it: The banana issue is a red herring

shake them up.' The banana

trying to keep Europe down."

the European allies which

helped it bombard Iraq. Many feel that the US is simply flexing its muscles towards a changing Europe that could pose a threat to the supremacy America has enjoyed since the collapse of the Soviet Union. "The US is ruthless." St Lucia's Prime Minister, Kenny Anthony, who is also the Caribbean's chief banana in-

in an unusually frank interview. "Our islands have lost their geopolitical value to them. This is no longer a threat against bananas. This is a political threat against Europe."

Mr Anthony and many other Caribbean officials believe the US used the banana issue as an excuse to launch a trade war against Europe, to "get even"

dustry representative, told me for anti-US trade measures by Europe in the past. "It's really very clear that we're not just dealing with an issue of bananas," Mr Anthony said. "In selecting hananas, they utilised

a very important weapon against Europe. First, they knew we, in the Caribbean. were defenceless and couldn't fight them, Secondly, they knew full well that the allegiance of

Europe on the question of bananas would always be fragile. "I have absolutely no doubt

at all that Bill Clinton was fully aware of the consequences of the US actions. We had made it very clear to the US that this would severely compromise the industry our social stability. If the US goes ahead with sanctions, it will cause perma-

tween the US and the Caribbean. For the first time, the US is at war not with governments but with small farm-

James Fletcher, a senior official of the St Lucia agriculture ministry, said: "I think the Americans are worried about the perceived unity of Europe, the euro and that sort of thing.

feel the US, at the behest of big American banana corporations, is effectively trying to throw this region back into the Dark Ages.

ducers in the Scottish borders.

That is in the short term. Long term, the banana farmers in the

Caribbean are anxious. They

Crushing our banana mdustry could cause total anarchy," said Mr Fletcher. "It's widely accepted that our currency [the East Caribbean dollar] would be devalued. To the Americans, we're just dots in the ocean. We stopped becoming a threat to them after they solved the Grenada problem (when the US intervened in Grenada in the Eighties because of a small Cuban presence]. The Americans wanted in our patois, they jumped

The Prime Minister said: "I have no doubt whatsoever that the agony that our (banana) industry is going through was nrchestrated by Chiquita Brands [the big American banana corporation]." He was referring to is belief that it was Chiquita, based in the US, which pushed Europe's banana concessions to its former colonies. Chiquita subsidiaries in Central and South America produce cheaper bananas thanks to cheaper labour and, its opponents say, by providing inhumane conditions for its workers. "We cannot ignore the horrendous social conditions under which Chiquita produces bananas in Latin America." Mr Anthony said. "It is well known that Chiquita has had a sordid political history in Latin America."

Mr Fletcher explained: After independence Ifrom Britain], we looked to the US. Washington is saying 'We'd bet-ter dismantle this. We'd better our closest neighbours, to protect us. We saw a need to distance ourselves from the colonial power. But now we reissue is a red herring. They're alise that they [the Americans] are, for want of a better exother Caribbean islands conpression, shafting us. We realise what British manufacturers sistently told me they are disillusioned not only by what are going through because of shington's supposed banana the banana issue. Through all of this, we have not lost sight of policy is doing to them, but what it is doing to totally-unrelated

Hungarian troops take leap into West's arms

THEIR FACES covered with BY ADAM LEBOR camnuflage cream, black woollen caps jammed down on their heads, guns at the ready, the soldiers abseiled SAS-style down the walls of their barracks before leaping through open

This could be a Nato exercise anywhere in the western military alliance, but these were Hungarian troops of the 34th Laszlo Bercsenyi Reconnaissance Battalion, training at a military base in the eastern city of Szolnnk.

Built in the early 1950s, the base nace served the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet-led military alliance that was a counterpart to Nato. But now former enemies in the capitalist west are allies of the one-time Communist states and, from yesterday.

Szolnok base, and the troops there, are part of Nato.

Adapting to Nato methods has demanded a revolution of the mind, as well as of the military. Soviet-era battle planning was largely based on Second World War methods of command and control, using human waves to advance. As loyal functionaries of a Marxist state, soldiers merely followed orders and initiative was frowned on as dangerous.

Soviet troops did not leave Hungary finally until July 1991. but before then there was little fraternisation. The Warsaw Pact was always more about occupation than alliance. Fearful of another 1956-style armed

bject nations at arms length, and the two armies had little to do with one another. Now Soviet operational methods have been replaced by Nato tactics, though the Hungarian troops at Szolnok are still armed with AK-47s, rather than Nato-issue

armies didn't have any freedom, even to think," said Captain Tibor Pethn, 30. "Western military teaching is that a team leader has to think and take decisions in combat situations. My soldiers are required now to think for themselves."

Capt Petho, a career soldier, is one of the new generation of Hungarian army officers. He trained with the US Marines in Virginia and speaks English,

soon come under the command of a British officer. "It doesn't matter to me that he will be foreign," he says. "He knows exactly what he is doing and how to deploy soldiers."

Just as with politics and business, the winners in the seismic political and econom-"Officers in Warsaw Pact ic changes that are reshaping eastern Europe, a decade after the collapse of Communism, will be those who are still young and mentally flexible enough to adapt to new ways of thinking.

Much of the old high command of the three new Nato member nations has retired. the elderly officers unable to accept the death of the Soviet bloc. Now the military future belongs to young officers such as

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Dispute mars Nato's big day

By MARY DEJEVSKY in Independence, Missouri

THE FOREIGN ministers of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland completed their countries' accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation yesterday in a ceremony replete with symbolism – intended and unintended. The venue was the modest

Truman Library on the edge of the equally modest town of Independence, Missouri - Harry Truman's home before and after his presidency. Furnished with the trappings of international meetings, the library was almost overwhelmed.

It was chosen to illustrate the line linking the original treaty, which came into being under Truman's watch 50 years ago, and the accession of the three Central European countries shut out at that time by the descent of the Iron Curtain.

But yesterday there was an absence of Nato dignitaries. The task of receiving the new



members' documents was allotted to Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, who spoke of the "coming home" of the three nations "to the world they always belonged to".

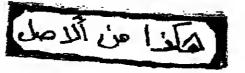
But the sense of unity and completinn the ceremony might have fostered was diminished twice over. The lack of wider interest made it almost a bilateral US-Central Europe congressional delegation was

meeting. Even in Independence there was scant interest about the event. While some people were amazed Washington should descend on them, others drew unfavourable comparisons between "their" president, who knew where the buck stops, and the present White House occupant. In an unfortunate coincidence, the

Thursday's debate on deploying US troops in Kosovo. President Clinton believes they can be sent under existing provisions and opposed any debate. But Dennis Hastert, the new House Speaker, has still to establish his authority and could not afford to resist Republican demands for a say, More than 40 Republicans voted with the Democrats to approve sending 4,000 troops to Kosovo but the fact remained that only hours before Nato's mutual security guarantees were extended for the first time to Central Europe, Congress was preoccupied with a debate echoing its first de-

depleted after the late finish of

bates about Nato. The argument, isolationists against Atlanticists, is repeated practically every time a US president wants to commit forces or funds abroad. For the dispute to erupt at that point showed the new Nato members that America still has misgivings about military involvement across the Atlantic.



Shameful truth of Britain's betrayal of Tibet

IIS AFTERNOON hundreds Tibetans and their support-'s will stand outside the Chise Embassy in Portland ace, central London and yell 'ree Tibet! China Out!" It is an mual ritual which will be acted with extra vigour on

is, the 40th anniversary of the

betan uprising against the

unese occupiers in 1959.

BY SUE LLOYD-ROBERTS

The door of the Embassy will remain closed and apart from the occasional glint of a video camera peeping from a window to record the faces of the demonstrators, it will give every impression of being deserted. The Chinese say there is no case to answer on



nineteenth century travellers

are filled with attempts to reach

Lhasa, the country's capital,

which were foiled by the Dalai



A Tibetan woman with a portrait of the Dalai Lama (right), is 'beaten' by a protester dressed as a Chinese soldier during a rally in New Delhi against China's rule Reuters

Tibet - it is and always has too was guilty of enabling the Lama's patrolling scouts. Capbeen part of the Motherland. Chinese invasion although nothing can justify the brutal-ity that has followed. The demonstrators, some

of whom have travelled from India for the occasion, believe London is the appropriate venue in which to vent their frustrations because Britain shares some of the hlame for the continued occupation of Tibet. Others admit that Tibet

made of the competition.

tain Francis Younghusband, who served in the British army on the North West Frontier, was Prior to the Chinese invasion among the many who dreamed

in 1950, the Tibetans did not of visiting the city.

welcome visitors. The tales of With the confidence of a servant of the Raj, he simply got permission from the India Office to invade Tibet in 1904. After that there was a perma-

trade but whose real job was to look out for untoward Russian or Chinese interference.

Apart from the Chinese, the British were the only witnesses to the de facto independence which Tibet enjoyed from 1913 until the Chinese

nent British representative in October 1950. Hugh Richard-Lhasa who claimed to promote son, now 93 and living in St Andrew's, was Britain's man in Lhasa from 1946 to 1950 (after India's independence in 1947, he officially represented the Government of India).

The Chinese had a small office in Lhasa hut it was the same size as our own diplomatic mission", he recalls. There was no trace of Chinese influence on Tibetan affairs or on the Tibetan Government."

The Tibetan word for foreigner is "Injie", that is, "English". Apart from the Chinese, the Tibetans knew no other foreign power and, more significantly, no other foreign power knew them. In his recent history of modern Tihet, The Dragon in the Land of the Snows, Tsering Shakya says that his people must share the blame for Tibet's diplomatic isolation. Although they enjoyed all the trappings of statehood, the Tibetans did not apply to the United Nations for membership because they did not want to encourage foreigners in Lhasa.

"Safeguarding their religion and customs was all that mattered." Mr Shakya says. "When the radio operator in Chengdu warned Lhasa that the Chinese were on their way, he was told that the Cabinet members could not be disturbed because

they were on a plcnic".

After the People's Liberation Army invaded to "liberate Tibet from imperialist forces" (there were six Westerners in Tibet at the time), the Tibetans saw the erosion of the authority of their God-King. Monasteries were bombed and hundreds of monks and resistance fighters were killed. When the people of Lhasa believed that the Chinese were planning to kidoap the Dalai Lama in March 1959. they rebelled. The Dalai Lama brutal reprisals which followed.

It was at this point that the Tibetans called on Britain to help. A delegation travelled to the UN in Now York to request a debate on their plight, a move they believed Britain would support. The British made sure the debate never happened. Mr Richardson, who has

written copiously on this sorry episode in Britain's diplomatic history, is still furious. I believe that the conduct of the British and Indian Governments amounted to an evasion of their moral duty to make plain what they alone had special reason to know - that there was no legal justification for the Chinese invasion of Tibet."

So how do we account for Britain's actions? The government, the historians say, was anxious to get rid of its interests in India and there were more urgent problems like Korea and the Cold War to address. "Tibet is redundant to Britain's interests", says a Foreign Office document of the Fifties. "We therefore consider any attempt to intervene in Tibet would be impracticable and unwise. We have no interest in the area sufficiently strong to justify the certain risks involved in our

embroiling ourselves with the Chinese on this question." Mr Shakya says this is still the motivation guiding Britain in its dealings over Tibet.

"Tibet has become one of the great moral issues of our time", he says, "and to appease their constituencies, Tony Blair and Bill Clinton always bring it up when they meet the Chinese leader, Jiang Zemin. But they do it in an embarrassed way saying, 'we're sorry, but we've



at British policy

with', No wonder the Chinese

don't take them seriously." The Dalai Lama says that so long as Britain has no commercial interest in Tibet and China remains a vast potential

market, it is all shadow boxing. Derek Fatchett, the Foreign fled to India and thousands minister, rejects this. "Yes we more Tibetans were killed in the could have done more in the past but we have to put all that behind us now. There is not a playoff between the commercial side and human rights. The British Government is robust in championing human rights and the Tibetan culture in our discussions with Beijing and we shall continue to do so."

Hugh Richardson concludes. "Tibet had an ancient civilisation, a deep religious base and a good administration although. on reflection, the monasteries may have exercised too much control. But it deserved to survive. I am very ashamed of Britain. It is too late now."

The protestors outside the Chinese Embassy can shout Free Tibet! China Out!" until they are hoarse but it is doubtful whether anyone will listen.

Spice Islands risk starvation

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Jakarta

AFTER SEVEN weeks of bloody battles between Christians and Muslims, the Indonesian Spice Islands are facing a food and refugee crisis, according to a United Nations document obtained by The Independent.

The report, by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP), says some of the islands have less than two weeks' rice and other essential commodities because the violence has paralysed the distribution sysiem and effectively sealed the islands off from the outside

violence, but the report reveals a far larger number - 33,000, including children and the elderly - are at risk from food shortages and epidemics.

Police and soldiers opened fire on rioters on the island of Ambon yesterday, following pitched street battles on Wednesday which left at least 12 people dead.

Muslims in Jakarta and on the island of Sulawesi threatened retaliation against Christians and demanded the government brings an end to the killings which haves spun out of control since they began in mid-January.

Stocks of milk on Ambon are exhausted, and the number of ships carrying food have fallen from seven to one or two every week, due to fears among traders that their warehouses will be hurned in the riots.

Maluku province, known during Dutch colonial times as the Spice Islands, produces cloves and nutmeg, but has to Some 200 people are esti-mated to have been killed in the 700 shops have been razed, import most of its rice. In the paralysing food distribution.

"The situation is serious." said Thomas Keusters, deputy country director for the WFP in Jakarta. The WFP has appealed for donations from the US and Australian governments, and hopes to receive the go-ahead from the Indonesian government on Monday to begin an aid operation.

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the motivation guiding Britan



Hugh Richardson; angry Me British India .

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ve." he said. in Nigeria, where polo was played in 1984, the sport cook over open fires. provided a bridge between



Passion model on the catwalk

DAY FOUND Alek Wek, unally, at home in her New studied at. The place is a small for her now. Not priily because her status as a model demands something ader, but because she has rge family - including eight thers and sisters - and she ild like to be able to put m up when they visit. She 1 the process of huying an rtment in Brooklyn, with a ple more rooms, and the chase will represent the latstage in a remarkable

seven years ago, she was a nager living with her fami-1 Wao, in the heart of south-Sudan's war zone. She aped the bombs and bullets meaking alone on to a Heres plane full of refugees and for Khartoum. From re, brough a sister, she nd asylum in England. She has been modelling

ce she was spotted, at the of 18, in a London street by agency talent scout who ed if she could take a pice of her. "I'm not the sort of to meet people in the street I just chat away with them, she was really sweet. I told mother about it and she sn't sure as she wanted me study. Three days later the ent called me and I went to

SATURDAY, Ms Wek

ssed the Atlantic to London. e has the coal dark skin of Divicas, but finds relaxed ial attitudes at either end of at has become something of ommuting run for her. "At 100i in England, there used be a lot of comments about skin colour but it was only ause they had never seen body that dark. In New k, people would ask Which t of Africa are you from?' w, the people from the fashindustry don't take me for Sudanese black model. by perceive me as Alek. en they want to book me, y say Naomi is Naomi, Kate ate and Alek is Alek." Ier schedule can be ex-



Alek Wek's proudest achievement is getting her family out of war-torn Sudan. But that does not stop her going back there to help others

down in London: "I dropped my bag, had a shower, got my details, then back in the car and I started the fittings with 10 appointments and request castings. The next day the shows started. I've been doing three to four shows a day ...

Clearly, however, she still finds time to think. "I enjoy the work very much. People should be able to do something where they are not going to sacrifice themselves, their emotions and their dignity. The most important thing is to do something that you are passionate about. I don't just want to grab isting. Soon after touching anything. Everything that I do,

I have a passion to do it." She the business who see everything in their lives as determined by their looks. "Maybe it has to do with where I'm coming from," she says.

TUESDAY, and Alek is at a show in London's Brick Lane, not far from the Hackney school where she started to study in English rather than Arabic, and made her first acquaintance with the English literature that she now intends to study to degree level. She is most important thing to me. If wearing a knee-length duvet my mother hado't encouraged

really dress up too much," she confides. And what about her diet? "I like fish, okra, rice. I don't drink or smoke, but I eat a lot of sweets."

So what is her proudest achievement? Working for Gucci? Fendi? Jean Paul Gaultier? Vivienne Westwood? Alexander McQueen? Ralph Lauren? Well, none of these really. "I'm really proud and thankful that I've got out of my country and that I have my family here. My family is the

coat, jeans and sneakers, and me, I would be nervous and babies, and of babies who look looks askance at colleagues in a little red woollen hat, "I don't feeling like I'm doing something wrong.

> THURSDAY, and it has to be Milan. But the first call is not to collect the details for her catwalk appearances, it is a press conference to publicise the work of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and World Vision. Despite her view of her escape from her homeland as her greatest achievement, she was persuaded to go back there by these charities last summer The sight of the old people sit

so delicate you don't want to touch them in case they break, has profoundly shaped her own priorities.

"It's not because they are my people from Sudan, but because they are all people suffering," she said. "When I first started working with World Vision I would sit down and talk with them about issues that concern any part of the world. MSF told me about what was going on in North Korea. I also support Aids and breast cancer charities. I don't understand when people are being greedy ting naked on plastic spects like or mean, when they say who

should get what, when they get control of someone else's life," Ms Wek's work for the US Committee for Refugees took her to the White House in September, where she spoke about Sudan and met Hillary Clinton.

"I would love to work on projects with her in the future." She also takes her message to the children of New York: "If somebody needs food to be able to stay alive, then that's what everybody should have," she tells them. "Everybody can put their hands together. There's a force that can come out of it." SHAMBHALA

AND MARY BELL

Britain recalls Congo envoy

By Ken Sengupta

THE ROW between Britain and Congo over allegations of spying escalated yesterday with the announcement the British am-

bassador was being recalled. The move is seen as a signal to the government of President Laurent Kabila that London is not prepared to back down in its stance over the expulsion of six diplomats and officials the Con-

golese accuse of espionage. The Fureign Office, which denies that the men, live Britons and an American on attachment to British authorities, were engaged in undercover work, said yesterday: "We are recalling the ambassader for consultations. We are taking the situation very seriously and are considering our response."

The expelled six are now in Zimbabwe and arrangements were being made for their return to London. The Foreign Office maintains they were working out continuency plans for the evacuation of around 150 British nationals against a background of worsening se curity situation, due to the country's civil war.

The men were issued with expulsion orders by the Interior Minister, Gaetan Kakudji, on Wednesday after being stopped near Ndolo airport, near Kinshasa city centre, and held under house arrest. The Congolese claimed the group had cameras and several maps with strategic positions marked.

There has been increasing suspicion of foreigners in Congo as the rebel forces fighting the Kabila regime make significant gains. The government claims the rebels, who are backed by Rwanda and Uganda, are being helped by Western mercenaries.

One of those arrested, Gregor Lusty, Third Secretary at the British Embassy, was described by the Congolese as the "guide of the undercover group". The Foreign Office said he had merely been escorting a team of British soldiers and diplomats on a "routine" tour.

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Nigeria's elite wait or a pukka chukka

ALEX DUVAL SMITH

eria: President Olusegun sanjo takes office in three y looks certain and inors are back. But among the et, the real sign of recovery be the return of pukka kkas to Lagos Polo Club. his huge grassy pitch, surded by stables more solid it many family homes, is the ground of Nigeria's mallet-

ding élite.

NGS ARE looking up for

but the club, situated in the oing and formerly chic Ikovi rict, has lost all of its class. ording to Dolapo Akinrele, yer who is its secretary. We need to attract the right of people. The club's heywas during the oil boom. in the Eighties it started to lownhill and it hit rock-botin 1993. People who had ie their money in dubious s just joined to make conwith the military," he said, ing a club soda at the bar r a ride on his favourite

y Tyson. Just as Nigeria's present tary ruler, General Abduluni Abubakar, wants to imive Nightian governance by ying towards civilian rule. Akinrele believes the club's iding will be relative to the dard of play.

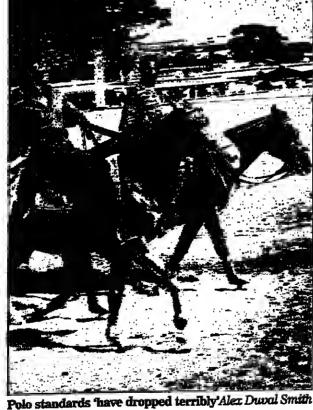
Standards have dropped ibly," said Audu Oshogwe-La former president of the adding that the days are inant in Lagos. geone of player-members ng in Argentinian ponies thup to £3,000 each.

Now we mostly ride ponies n Sudan or Chad. They are right to Nigeria by foot or by tres on. d and sold at markets in

They are much cheaper - as Argentine horses, if less d to the hot climate, are titifully trained when they

e ap 100,000 naira (£750) – very quickly to keep you mov-actually very good. But ing with the ball," Mr Oshog-Behind the grooms, along the wall which separates this

huge slab of green from the rest of smoky Lagos, their wives



the traditional ruling classes of on foot, their heads completethe north - where horse-loving emirs played polo with the British army - and the economically powerful southwestern Yorubas who are dom-

All around the field - some two-and-a-half times the size of a football pitch - grooms on horseback break into sudden gallop, only to stop dead 50 me-"The hallmark of a good

pony is that It should he nimble and able to stop and to turn very quickly to keep you mov-

Armies of young boys arrive

ly concealed by bunches of

At the bar, mobile phones ring, BBC World is on the television and the imported beer mats say "Heineken". There is much enthusiasm that Mohammed Babangida, son of the still-influential former dictator, Ibrahim Babangida, has had a good season with his Kaduna

El-Amin team. "Anything that is good for the young Bahangida is good for polo," says one drinker.

What is even more certain - in a sport which attracts big-name sponsors such as Shell, Elf, First Fuels, Coca-Cola and Air France - is that whatever is good for polo is good for just a few of those who make up Africa's most populous country.

US trio accused of spy mission

BY MARCUS TANNER

at Harare airport are to be charged with illegal possession of arms, terrorism, espionage and acts of sabotage, authorities in Zimbabwe said yesterday. Police said the men would

appear in court today and that investigations were being carried out into their alleged mission to destabilise Zimbabwe and its northern ally, the Democratic Republic of Congo. Zimbabwe has more than 6,000 troops in Congo where they are helping President Laurent Kabila fight rebels backed by Rwanda and Uganda.

The authorities have not for mally named the men but they are though to be Gary George Blanchard, Jona Lamonte Dixon and Joseph Pettijohn.

The men, aged between 34 and 37, were arrested on Sunday night en route to Zurich. Police said an AK-47 assault rifle, seven revolvers, a Burger rifle, four Remington rifles, six telescopic sights, some binoculars, one AK-47 magazine, and ammuni-tion for pistols and revolvers

were found in their luggage. The men were said to have entered Zimbabwe by road from Congo and left a truck laden with weapons and telephone handsets at Harare airport. They claimed they were visiting big game reserves.

The authorities are investigating what they say are links between the three men and the five Britons and an American expelled this week from Congo for alleged spying. Police chief Augustine Chi-

huri said yesterday that the three would be charged with acts of terrorism, espionage or sabotage. He said they could also face an alternative charge of illegal possession of arms. A US embassy statement said the men were in no way "connected or associated with

the US government".

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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner

News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

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Takeover report sent to Byers

THE LONG AWATTED report into the 2623m takeover of dand ster United by British Sky Broadcasting was FALLAN Pallar saw yesterday passed to Stephen Byers, the Trace and thanks found in the hiding place Industry Secretary, by the Monopolies and Mergers of one of the country's made investigation, completing a four and a half month thanks track in the country's made investigation. The DTI, which will scrutinise the report, and it was planning to publish its conclusions "as soon: thangerous mains to see investigation. The DTI, which was see mains broad them in other makes said it was planning to publish its conclusions "as soon as broad them makes as soon as below as a said it expected the report to be krail them in other maketers paracticable. BSkyB said it expected the report to be the run Girsche Purmalli was by Manchester United restated their belief that the takeover try turities disgussed by should be allowed to proceed.



CORTECS, the biotech company, yesterday settlement with Glen Travers, the former chief executive and founder (pictured), claiming wrongful dismissal. The settlement, in respect of two years' salary and efits, ends a protracted battle following Mr

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Bund movie Wooden park Exports turf war resolved

operated by remote county THE GOVERNMENT is to overhaul its export promotion covered the untside walls at efforts by bringing together the activities of the Foreign wilklows

The sound of the premise one roof. The British Overseas Trade Board will be The sound of the present one roof. The British Overseas Haus Books Trade in drills meeted to be present international whose first chief executive will be the through the steel door and Ambassador to Tokyo, Sir David Wright. The changes, Picontally, who attempted a recommended in a report from the Cabinet Secretary, Sir there there is a trapple of once Richard Wilson, are designed to end the turf war between the FCO and DTL

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TSE All Share	2894.74	-13.60	-0.47	2915.80	2143.53	2.70
TSE SmallCap	2367.80	14.70	. 0.63	2793.80	1834.40	3.44
TSE Fledgling	1281,90	6.20	0.49	1517,10	1046.20	4.27
TSE AIM	847.40	. 3.10	0.37	1145.90	. 761,30	1.10
SE Eurotop 100	2911.64	2.39	-0.08	3079.27	2018.15	2.05
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ance CAC 40	4175.03	-9.35	-0.22	4404,94	2881.21	1.67
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PRICE AND INCOME THE			- Water gr	10303,00	page 9	<u> </u>
irish Overall	5404.64	-23.13	-0.43	5581.70	3732,57	1.5
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BUSINESS

Warburg chief quits as losses hit £430m

City's most illustrious bankers, is to retire as chairman and chief executive of Warburg Dillon Reed after 18 years with the firm. His departure comes after a year in which the investment bank reported pre-tax losses of more than one billion Swiss francs (£430m), mostly as a result of exposures to Long Term

The losses, which hit during last year's disastrous third quarter, prompted the resig-nation of Mathis Cabiallavetta, as chairman of UBS. WDR's Swiss banking parent, at the height of last autumn's financial crisis in October.

Largely as a result of the difficulties at WDR, UBS yesterday disappointed the markets

End of

month

for oil

Business Editor

merger

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

PTERRE JUNGELS, the chief ex-

ecutive of Enterprise Oil, yes-

terday gave one last push to its

merger talks with the rival ex-

ploration group Lasmo, saying

it would be a good move and placing a deadline of the end of

He was speaking as the oil

price sailed back above \$13 a

barrel - its highest since No-

vember - after oil producers

meeting in the Hague pledged

to cut global output by 2 million

The sharp fall in oil prices

last year was reflected, bow-

ever in Enterprise's results. It

final dividend, blaming the one-

third decline in the price of a

barrel in 1998.

this month for a decision.

deadline

ing of Mr De Gier's departure was in any way linked to last year's financial upset. He said that Mr De Gier, 55, had expressed his wish to step down before the UBS and SBC merger was announced in 1997. With

Markus Granziol, who joined the firm in 1987. In an internal memo circulated to WDR staff. Mr Ospel praised Mr De Gier ense contribution?

has been merged twice more -

standing Swiss rival which it rescued 18 months ago. As part of the same top management reshuffle announced yesterday, Gary Brinson, the founder and head of UBS Brinson, UBS's fund management

with Dillon Reed, the American

investment bank and more re-

cently with UBS, SBC's long-

vestment side of the business. His place will be taken by Peter Wuffli, currently chief financial officer. David Solo who as chief risk officer oversaw the review of the WDR business after the LTCM debacle, is at his own request moving back to his native US, where he will be put in

nology area. Peter Wufflithe CFO, said that because of the losses at WDR, which left insufficient cash in the bonus pool, the group was having to dig into its merger restructuring reserve to pay out

bonuses to Warburg staff. He said the group was still eking to acquire businesses in the US, but would consider buying back up to 10 per cent holders if it were unable to find a suitable target.

Mr Ospel said that with the merger of UBS and SBC now complete and the review of WDR having resulted in a firm using less capital and more focused on client-related business, the "new UBS" was "on track to meet an ambitious set of growth targets.

He said there was a clear focus on "growth in asset gathering, advisory and asset mangement business". However, he insisted that UBS was not talking about a major US acquisition and we expect a significant profit increase which will bring us close to our return on equity tar-

and into 2000. The yen weakened below ¥120 to the dollar on but "selectively building up our US sectoral expertise." He said: Elsewhere, the cure re-treated from the levels it We are nn course to for 1999 touched after the resignation of Oskar Lafontaine, but remained around \$1.09. Shares in

Frankfurt soared 6 per cent at one stage, the DAX index passing the 5,000 level, It ended at The Dow Jones Industrial Average failed to breach the 10,000 mark, however, despite further good news on the US

Japan GDP

fifth

BY DIANE COYLE

Economics Editor

falls for

quarter

THE JAPANESE economy

shrank by a record amount in 1998, with GDP falling for an

unprecedented fifth quarter in

a row at the tail end of the year.

said he thought the recovery

would start soon, but most

economists predict the slump

continuing through this year

A government spokesman

economy: Shares in London ended nearly 54 points lower at The 0.8 per cent drop in Japan's GDP in October December took it 2.8 per cent down year-on-year. Forecasters expect another 2-2.5 per cent decline in the economy this

The shimp last year would have been much worse without the government's programme of public works. Public spending contributed 0.7 per cent in growth in the final quarter.

But every other category of national output - private investment, consumer spending, stocks and net trade - made a negative contribution to

Taichi Sakaiya, bead of the Economic Planning Agency. said: "With all the measures the government has taken and with interest rates having been cut so low, I personally think con sumption will pick up."

But Matthew Wickens at ABN-Amro said: "Much more needs to be done on the policy front to achieve sustained growth."

The Bank of Japan left its policies unchanged after its council meeting vesterday. It will continue to keep the key short-term policy rate of interest close to zero.

is also in discussions about buying back a large offshore Many analysts argue that it will have to taken even more agfield in Iran and does not expect to hit any problems with the US. gressive steps to reflate demand - such as buying in government bonds in exchange for newly-minted cash. This Outlook, page 21 would get more money into circulation and would also help reverse the recent upward jump in long-term interest

However, yesterday Japan did take the next step in the reform of its banking system with formal approval of a \7.46 trillion injection of public money into 15 top banks. try's own slot scheduling The Government will buy a

combination of preference shares and subordinated debt in the banks, with Fuji Bank getting the biggest amount at Y1 trillion

The recapitalisation of the banks is a precondition for an end to the credit crunch. Banks have been unwilling to make loans because of the fragility of their capital ratios.

Even if such measures do belp to kick-start an evculual recovery, Japan is overshadowed by longer-term concerns. Its population is ageing more rapidly than that of any other Group of Seven country, and the huge potential pensions bill means the government deficil could explode in future.

HANS DE GIER, one of the BY ANDREW GARFIELD to the firm. He credited him with having established Warburg Dillon Reed's position as the leading European investwith profits before taxes and restructuring charges of Sfr4bn ment bank. Mr De Gier is still remembered in the City for for 1998, a fall of 35 per cent mpared with the year before. the ruthless efficiency with Marcel Ospel, the group which he implemented the takeover of SG Warburg by chief executive, denied the timwhat was then Swiss Bank Corcharge of developing new busiporation. Since then the firm ness for the group in the tech-Capital Management, the

right time for him to leave. He will be replaced by

plunged into loss and passed its An oil rig worker arriving at Enterprise's Nelson platform in the North Sea. The company plunged into loss and passed its final dividend, blaming the one-third decline in the price of a barrel in 1998

chairman of Enterprise, added The City is sceptical of the "significant synergies" but Enterprise refused to spell out how big these would be or how many more jobs would

Enterprise and Lasmo, But Mr Jungels said that he was convinced of the merits of a link-up because the two companies would fit together well strategically and complement each other in terms of cash flow, exploration programmes and geographic spread. Sir Graham Hearne, the

Barbour Index

founder's £22m

benefits of a merger between disappear.

The two companies have each imposed swingeing job cuts. Enterprise has cut its workforce back to 650 - a reduction of 200 - in a bid to achieve savings of £20m.

Mr Jungels stressed that been "the toughest year in the the last few weeks and relief that a merger could produce Enterprise had a viable future company's history". as an independent exploration Turnover fell by 40 per cent

company even if the Lasmo to £563m, three-quarters of the talks ended in failure. decline being due to lower oil prices and the remainder to Enterprise plunged to a £19.5m loss last year compared with a £255m profit the previous asset sales.

year. Announcing that the final dividend was being scrapped. leaving the payout for the year at 6.9p compared with 17.4p in 1997, Sir Graham said 1998 had

lower production because of Analysts had anticipated that Enterprise would pass its final dividend. The shares

climbed 6 per cent on the back doing business with Tehran. of the recovery in oil prices in

Government denies help for US Airways at Gatwick

PATRICK BARBOUR, the five years ago, is set to receive founder of Barbour Index, yesfounder of Barbour Index, yesterday pocketed £22m when he sold the supplier of information for the construction industry to Havas, the French media group, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

The deal marks the end of a frantic anction which was sparked last month when Mr Barbour, who will be 65 in July, announced his intention to step down and sell his 42.4 per cent stake in the company.

Mr Barbour founded the company with his brother in 1957 after completing his national service and a two-year spell working as an travelling salesman for Encyclopedia Britannica. A former director, David Davenport, who retired

Havas won the auction despite intense competition from rival UK companies including Emap, the magazines group, and Lord Hollick's United News

& Media. The French group, which is a subsidiary of the media and utilities giant Vivendi, is offering 305p per share in cash for Barbour, valuing it at £53m. Shares in Barbour, which have been buoyed by takeover speculation in recent weeks, dropped 25p to 300p.

Brian Griffin, Barbour's chairman, said Mr Barbour and the rest of the board had favoured Havas' bid because it planned to leave the company

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday denied it had intervened to help Transport Correspondent an American airline win landing slots at Gatwick and remove a held talks at "the highest level" sticking point in the "open skies" talks after US Airways thanked Department for the Environ-

the White House for resolving the US Airways' chairman Stephen Wolf caused conster-nation in Whitehall by thanking "key public officials" for it winning the right to start operating services to Charlotte, Virginia.

Mr Wolf praised the entire Clinton administration, singling out Vice President Al Gore. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for providing vigilant and steady leadership".

ment, Transport and the Replayed no part in the decision. The issues of slots for US Air-

ways and Continental to fly to, respectively, Charlotte in Virginia and Cleveland in Ohio, led to the breakdown of preliminary talks between the two governments over liberalising air travel.
The talks ended without res-

olution after Britain told the US that under European Union law allocation of runway slots was not in the British government's gift, but was a matter for the indus-

process. Slots are allocated by an independent committee, Airport Co-ordination Limited, and the while on a visit to the UK. But the implication that the decision resulted from White House pressure could upset rival airlines gions insisted that ministers had played no part in the decision.

and the European Commission.

Mr Wolf said he was delight-

that losses were not greater.

was looking actively at pooling some of its North Sea assets. It

which has threatened sanc-

tions against oil companies

Mr Jungels said Enterprise

ed that US Airways could offer competition on that route. But he added: "This has been a team effort at all levels of government -federal, state and local - in support of the principle of competition in international aviation." But a DETR spokesman said:

"The British Government had no direct involvement in the Gatwick situation. It shows the slot system works for US carriers if they are persistent."

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

ALTHOUGH Footsie achieved a trading high of 6,365.4 points, blue chips were unable to hold their best levels and the index ended 53.5 lower at 6,282.2. Supporting shares were again strong with the mid cap index up 67.5 to 5,560.8. Tomkins, the conglomerate which is due to be relegated from Footsie, led the blue chip leader board with a 28.25p gain to 234.25p; the group intends to undertake a tender offer buy back on Monday. Billiton was up 5.5p to 148p after an investment dinner. , Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES shed early gains to stand slightly down in the early afternoon as traders paused after the recent run towards the 10,000-point level. By mid-afternoon the Dow, which had surged 61 points higher in opening trade, was off 32 points

Caterpillar warned that firstquarter profits would come in 50 per cent below estimates because of economic conditions in Latin America, and saw nearly 10 per cent knocked off its value.

● TOKYO

SHARES CLOSED slightly lower, pressured by modest profit-taking following an 11 per cent rally over the past eight days. The Nikkei 225 closed down

13.28 points at 15,488.86, well clear of the high of 15,709.01 prompted by buying ahead of the close of trading in the March futures and overnight gains on Wall Street. The low was 15,408.38 points. Nissan Motor led declines by car-makers after DaimlerChrysler rejected an alliance earlier this week, while Sony headed the gainers.

HONG KONG OVERNIGHT GAINS on Wall

Street and futures-led trading helped the Hang Seng index break through 10,800 to close up 138.95 at 10,801.76. Brokers said the index was also boosted by Hutchison Whampoa, which rose over 4 per cent on a report that the conglomerate is planning to list on the New York Stock Exchange and may be preparing for acquisitions. Analysts said the 11,000 mark could be tested next week, with investors expecting a cut in interest rates.

والوارد والوارد والمتعالية والمتعارض والمتعارض

海峡線 FRANKFURT THE XETRA DAX closed up 5 per

cent at 5.031, holding on to its gains after the German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder named Hans Eichel as caretaker finance minister in the wake of Oskar Lafontaine's resignation. Insurance and utility stocks, which stand to be hardest hit by the tax reforms proposed by Lafontaine, rose sharply despite indications that corporate tax loopholes are still under threat. Insurer Allianz rose nearly 14 per cent and the utility RWE added 11.5 per cent.

177 (6.5 Summit Castrell 178 (6.5 Summit Castr

THE INDEPENDENT Saturday 13 March 1999

Transfer your PEPs to a different league

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Team up with a Mercury Portfolio PEP and benefit from our experience, resources and strength. There's a 3% discount

Oskar's gone but the problems remain

ON THE PRINCIPLE that duliness is the best characteristic a finance minister can have, Hans Eichel has a head start over his controversial predecessor. The euro certainly kept most of its post-Oskar gains yesterday. But how much has the replacement of Red Oskar with a colon-less pragmatiat actually changed Germany's and Europe's economic prospects?

The German government was insisting yesterday that the departure of its architect had not toppled the tax plan that caused such uproar among insurers and utilities. Allianz alone said it stood to lose 2.5 billion marks and would move abroad. Although dullard Hans will probably compromise on the corporate tax increase eventually, the standoff is clearly not yet over.

Another part of the reason for the surge in the euro was the judgement that the ECB will now be able to cut Euroland interest rates to boost growth without appearing to give way to political bullying. German GDP declined in the fourth quarter of last. c Yesterday brought new figurt... showing Italy's GDP fell during



OUTLOOK

on a rate cut must have improved. Not so fast, though. Wim Duisenberg poured cold water on the idea again yesterday, saying governments must put their finances in order first.

Nor does Oskar trotting off into the sunset resolve the really fundamental question about Euroland. It was posed by Mr Duisenberg again yesterday: will member governments engage in structural reform to move back the barriers to potential growth? Or, to put it in a way guaranteed to annoy our the EU become more Blairite now?

has gone. But not necessarily. There is still no consensus on the appropriate policy agenda for the EU. We still don't really know whether the curo is going to be allowed to act, as it should, as a catalyst for free market reform across Europe, or whether by contrast it will become a stultifying conduit for centralised tax narmonisation and rigid control of labour and capital markets.

Whatever the answer, the economic management of Euroland has, overnight, become much less problematic. Mr Eichel should make a point of not bullying the ECB and not hectoring his fellow finance ministers. Even if he wants to boost demand the old-fashioned way, he is more likely to get a rate cut if he makes harmony, not har-monisation, his watchword.

Enterprise

IT SAYS something about the unpredictable nature of the oil business that a company can plunge European partners, will the rest of into losses and pass its dividend and yet still see its share price rise by Possibly - the biggest obstacle 6 per cent on the day.

general rally in the oil price to ditch the dividend. The price hit a four month high of more than \$13 a barrel after a group of Opec and non Opec producers promised to turn down the gusher and reduce the flood of unwanted oil by two million

Not so long ago the oil price was submerged below \$9 a barrel, so things seem to be looking up. All things are relative, however, and the fact is that Enterprise, in common with many others, is barely profitable even at \$13 a barrel. Moreover, it cannot really rely on the big Opec producers to honour their pledges and bring supply closer to demand, least of all on the likes of Saudi Arabia, which is desperate for the cash.

But Enterprise has fall-back cue the oil price. plan. It wants to merge with Lasmo, and thereby create one credible (and profitable) independent UK oil exploration and production group. Sir Graham Hearne, the Enterprise chairman, sees "significant synergies". The rest of the market is not

Luckily for Enterprise Oil, it the advantages are so obvious, Enchose a day on which there was a terprise and Lasmo are still trying to tie the knot two months after news of their discussions leaked.

There is of course, a history between the two. Sir Graham tried and failed to acquire Lasmo with a smash and grab raid in 1994, claiming haughtily that the time had come to sit at "the big boys table". His nemesis at Lasmo, Rudolph Agnew, is gone, but Joe Darby is still there as chief executive, so this time Enterprise's talking is being done by the rather more emollient Pierre

He says he is personally convinced of the merits of a merger and promises an outcome to the talks by the end of this month. But it would be unwise to rely on an Enterprise-Lasmo merger, any more than Opec can be relied on to res-

French banking

BRITISH BANKS, we are frequently told, are the best in Europe. Now there is an opportunity to prove it. so convinced and wonders why if British bankers have been itching to

get the chance to apply their skills to sorting out France's mollycoddled banks. But for many years, the only allowed route in was through Credit Lyonnais - touted by the French Government to virtually every foreign bank in the world. That was an opportunity everyone felt they could safely ignore. Now

there s the possibility of real action. This week's attempt by France's second biggest bank, Banque Nationale de Paris, to gatecrash the merger between rivals Paribas and Société Générale, has posed a real . filemma for France's financial and business elite.

Do they allow the French bureaucracy to engineer a cosy stitchup, in which shareholders of the three banks will ultimately be the losers, or do they tell the French Government where to get off? The French authorities seem to want a solution which is in the interests of La France, keeps the foreigners out, and doesn't involve any job losses. The interests of shareholders are

neither here nor there. France has repeatedly flouted both shareholder rights and wider European law by vetoing foreign buy-

them in only on condition that the French end up running the show.

What seems to have triggered the initial SG Paribas deal is that an approach was made by ABN-Amro, the Dutch bank, to Société Générale through the intermediary of the Dutch central bank ABN-Amro was immediately given the brush off, and the farce of the present French solution thus began.

Barciays and Lloyds have both expressed interest in buying a French bank, but because of Britain's non-participation in the euro they are even more beyond the pale than the Dutch. Even so, it may be worth someone's while to try and bust the whole thing open.

Who better than Sir Brian Pitman, chairman of Lloyds TSB, to show the French what shareholder capitalism really means by tabling an open offer for the lot. Is France ready to join the 21st century, or is there to be a retreat into old fashioned corporatism, where shareholders get hung out to dry for the sake of what politicians think are the wider interests of the great republic? There's only one way to find out.

Billiton moves up on hopes for commodity prices

BILL. TON, the South African mining giant which this week just managed to hold oo to its cherished Footsie place, is again winning over institutional investors after an uncomfortable bear run.

The shares were at one time up 11.5p; they closed 5.5p higher at 148p.

Since interim results last week the group has beld a series of presentations and on Thursday evening fund managers attended an investment dinner bosted by Schroders.

CSFB is the latest investment house to turn positive oo the shares. It feels commodity prices, which have slumped over the past year, may have bottomed out.

Ar price improvement may not occur for six months but once it starts it will be rapid and significant. Analyst shares from bold to an outright

At Thursday's dinner Billitoo highlighted the fact that it was highly geared to any upturn in metal prices.

The mining giant, which plans a sbare huy-back, has oot had an altogether happy time since it arrived oo the stock market two years ago. The shares almost touched 250p but were down to 98.75p in last year's slump. They

SHARES OF drugs group ML Laboratories were on a high_np 15p to 127.5p following investment presentations. Another round of meetings is planned for next week. The shares are now riding at a year's high, although they touched 468.5p in 1996. WestLB Panmure forecast 400p in two years. The group's Emmelle cream may have significant implications in preventing HIV transmission.

have climbed from around 110p since the start of last month.

The Rio Tinto metals giant has also been in a hole. The shares touched 1,109p before sioking to 566.5p. They rose 22p to \$94p, partly reflecting Billitor: s form

Tomkins, the huns to guns conglomerate which is due to lose its Footsie positioo after a 15-year run, had the distinction of topping the hlue chip leader board with a 28.25p gain to 234.25p.

For a time, blue chips were riding at yet another peak. Footsie climbed 29.7 points to reach a new trading high of 6.365.4

But the effort proved too much. In another day of active trading - with turnover above 1.1 billioo shares - the index. fell back 53.5 to 6,282.2 as New You paused for hreath.

Supporting shares were much more determined. underlining the feeling that the dog days on the undercard are coming to an end.

The mid cap index jumped

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

67.5 to 5,560.8; it is 400 below the peak hit last June.

The small cap rose 14.7 to 2,367.8, compared with its high of 2,792.7, established in May. Government stocks, reflecting the Lafootaine departure. in Germany, made further

Kingfisher, ahead of year's 800p, 8 peak. In an effort to underline its European connections, the results will be presented in Paris by the group's top brass, including the chief executive, Sir Geoff Mulcahy.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT TOMKINS -360 340 320 -300 -280 -260 -200 -

180 MAMJ JASOND J FM The London show is likely to he a downbeat affair by comparison. BT Alex.Brown expects Kingfisber's profits to he £559.2m, up 11 per cent, with the Darty Freoch operation making the strongest

Ripples continued from the Prudential Corporation descent on the M&G unit trust group. Halifax rose 27.5p to 796.5p and Lloyds TSB added 11p to 991p. The Pru fell a fur-

ther 19.5p to 779p. The latest disappointment from Reckitt & Colman, the third in a year, left the household goods group's shares 41p off at 732.5p. Reed Interna-tional fell again on its results, off 32,25p at 55,25p.

Enterprise Oil, still talking about a possible merger with Lasmo, put on 19.75p to 341.25p following its figures. Confirmation of intended Opec production cuts had little impact, with many wondering whether it has the ability to deliver lower output

Commerzbank also hit sentiment, downgrading its stance oo the leading oil stocks. BP Amoco, off 46p at 975.5p, is now rated as a sell; Sbell, suffering the same treatment, was off 10p at

group, shaded 2p to 229p as Amey, the construction group, abandoned its bid intentions following the intervention of Penauille, the French group, which confirmed it had the support of almost 50 per cent

of the capital.

Barlow Index collected a bid but it was not wbat the market expected. The shares fell 25p to 300p as the supplier of specialist information accepted a 305p-a-share offer from another French group, the publisher Havas.

Tracker Network, the vehicle security group, motored 57.5p to 510p as a possible management buyout appeared on the borizon.

Regal Hotels fell 3p to 26p following a cautious trading statement accompanying a 15 per cent profits increase. The frothed 30p higher to 257.5p on its figures.

A profit warning from Weather Action dampened the shares 15p to 32.5p; they were 97p last autumn.

The Scotch whisky group Glenmorangie was also on the rocks. A profits warning left the "A" shares nursing a 102.5p fall with the "B" shares off 155p at 672.5p.

Meconic, the chemical group, also produced the pre-

BANDT, the old Brown & Tawse construction group. could be a takeover target. There is talk of a bid being lined np bnt any strike may be held back until after the results for the year ending next month are known.

It has traded well and around £7.5m is expected against £5.4m last time. Institutions are heavy in the shares which have been up to 45p in the past

dictable reaction with a 14.5p fall to 117.5p after a warning about its results.

Eurotunnel, for long dead in the water, rallied 11p to 98.5p on hopes that it will roll out its first profit oo Mooday 1t could produce around £60m. although exceptional items linked to the group's debt restructuring would be largely responsible. Still such a performance would compare with a £611m loss last time.

The market's fascination with surfing the Internet was illustrated yet again by a 10p gain to 51.5p by Novara, a supplier of education and scientific products. It has got in oo the act by buying a 33.3 per cent interest in DIALnet, involved in Internet oetworking services for education.

Proteus International the healthcare group, rose 2.5p to 35p in busy trading; there is talk of a link-up announcemeot oext week.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.1 billion SEAQ TRADES: 94,921 GILTS INDEX: 0/a



Millar adds libel writ to British Biotech dispute

HOPES OF a settlement in the bitter legal row between British Biotech and its former head of clinical research Dr Andrew Millar faded this week as Dr Millar issued a writ for libel against

the drug discovery company. Despite recent offers of a £120,000 settlement by the company, the case looks set for the High Court this summer.

British Biotech sacked Dr Millar last April after he "blew the whistle" to investors over his concerns about the progress of drug tests. He discussed with shareholders two trials of the company's star drugs, Marimastat and Zacutex, for pancreatitis. The sacking prompted a huge row company on its Internet website

BY JOHN WILLCOCK between Dr Millar and the company's then chief executive. Keith McCullagh, who has also

subsequently left the company. The company was the first to launch legal action, suing Dr Millar last June for breach of contract and hreach of confidence. He then counterclaimed for wrongful dismissal

and detamation. Dr Millar sought "substantial damages," understood to be

at least £180,000. Now Dr Millar has launched a second legal action claiming damages for libel. He is objecting to statements made by the.

(www.britbio.co.uk) on 4 August last year on the "Business Beview" page under the heading "Product Development".

ments made in a press release on 20 August titled "Regulatory Update". He is also objecting to comments contained in the company's first-quarter results announcement on 23 September and in its secondquarter results on 13 November.

words were "published to the media, the ... [company's] shareholders and the general public."

He is also suing over state-

and wrongs of what Dr Millar did. As the case goes on our increases steadily.

Dr Millar said the offending

A source close to Dr Millar said they expected this week's writ to be consolidated into the

existing legal action and to be tried at the same time, either in June or after the summer break, in October. "Money is not the issue," the source said. "It's the rights

confidence in his case A spokeswoman for British Biotech said yesterday: "The litigation is ongoing and therefore

we can't comment Elliot Goldstein, chief executive of British Biotech, has said in the past that he would like to settle the action out of court. It is understood that a month

to halt profit fall BY ANDREW VERITY

cuts costs

Reckitt

RECKITT & COLMAN, the troubled household products company, yesterday launched a worldwide cost-cutting exercise in an effort to halt a dramatic fall in profits which has wiped half the value from its shares in the last year.

The Lemsip-to-lavatory cleaner group, still searching for a chief executive after last month's departure of Vernon Sankey, will slasb between £30m and £40m from its overbeads by cutting an unspecified number of jobs and ordering

Reckitt's executives yesterday bared their soul to the City, admitting to mistakes caused by "taking our eye off the ball" in North America. Operating profit fell hy 16 per cent to £319.7m, excluding a £31m hit for Y2k problems.

"We are unhappy with our performance in North America and oecessarily we must get it right," said Michael Tuller, act-

didate for the permanent post. Reckitt was trounced in the US by its arch-rival Clorox, which launched an innovative spray-cleaner for shower units and a fragrant all-purpose cleaner. "We were just too slow with our oew products - particularly in the bathroom and all-purpose cleaner segments." Mr Tuller added.

Profit margins in the US. where Reckitt had prided itself on being a brand leader, fell from 17.2 to 15 per cent. Reckitt was also caught out by massive destocking, caused by a oew trend to ordering goods electronically as they are sold.

Dividends rose 5.4 per ceol ago the company offered Dr to 15.8p but shares plunged 5 Millar £120,000. to 15.8p but shares plunged 5 per cent to 732.5p.

IN BRIEF

Luton overtakes Stansted in

the airport growth race LUTON HAS overtaken Stansted as the fastest-growing major UK airport, according to figures published by the Civil Aviation Authority. Last year 4.1 million passengers passed through the airport, an increase of 27.8 per cent, ahead of Stansted at 27.3 per cent. Frank Pullman, chief executive, said Lutoo had enjoyed a 39 per cent growth in the first two months of 1999. "This provides an excellent basis for our uture expansion when we open our new terminal and railway station this summer." The airport is owned by Luton Borough Council but managed by a consortium of Airport Groop International, Bechtel Enterprises, Barclays UK Infrastructure Fund and Barclays Private Equity.

Shake up at Tay Homes

TAY HOMES, the house-builder, yesterday announced a wholesale shake-up in its boardroom as it announced disappointing results that saw its shares slide over 7 per cent to 111.5p. John Maunders, the self-made founder of John Maunders pic, which was sold to Westbury last year, will replace Norman Stubbs as chairman, bringing with him William Bannister, a former colleague, as chief executive. The group, which saw profits fall last year from £4.2m to £1.1m, will also appoint Richard Tice, chief executive of Sunley Group, Tay's biggest shareholder, as a non-executive director,

Sit tight, Portsmouth tells investors

PORTSMOUTH & SUNDERLAND Newspapers, the regional newsoaper and convenience store chain, yesterday urged its shareholders to sit tight while it continued discussions with a variety of potential bidders. The company said it was in talks with a number of companies about both its newspaper and convenience store arms, and would inform its shareholders wben they were concluded. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is currently investigating whether Newsquest, Newscom and Johnston Press, the rival newspaper groups, should be allowed to buy P&S's newspaper operations.

Merrill points to turnaround at revamped 'Independent'

THE INDEPENDENT and Independent on Sunday are today described as "a turnaround story" in a substantive new investment circular by Merrill Lynch on the titles' parent company, Independent Newspapers.

Pointing to the year-on-year circulation rise achieved by the daily title in February - the first such rise in three years - the investment bank expresses the view that "under single ownership by a group with proven management ability, The Independent's performance can be improved'

It says break-even for the titles is anticipated in three years' time, with circulation targets of 250,000 for the daily and 300,000 for the Sunday.

BY OUR CITY STAFF

Independent Newspapers acquired full control of the two newspapers just over a year ago. Overall, Merrill estimates that Independent Newspapers is 35 per cent undervalued against. other European and UK newspaper groups, making it the best-value publishing stock followed by

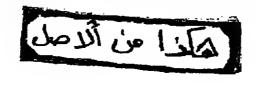
the US securities house. Returning to the group's two UK national titles, Merrill says; "Editorial changes have improved circulation and adversers continue to be attracted by the papers' young urban, affluent readership base. The Independent titles have now been fully integrated into the group's existing UK operations.

The primary objectives of the new management were firstly to put more copies of the paper into circulation (increased sampling through price promotion and special offers, etc) and second-

ly to improve the editorial qual-

ity and content to appeal to both existing and new readers." The losses at The Independent and Independent on Sunday have been a factor ssing the share price of the parent company over the last six . months. However, Merrill gives an upbeat verdict on the outlook. It reckons losses in the group's UK operations as a whole will narrow to IREL&m in 1999. It expects UK operations to be back at break-even in 2,000, rising to a profit of IRE2.6m the year after

COMPANY RESULTS										
Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	ÉPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div				
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Lewis faces defining moment



RICHARD WILLIAMS IN NEW YORK

ace ree inu

THE TROUBLE with Lennox Lewis. according to Emanuel Steward, his trainer, is that he plays too much chess. "Chess ties up too much time," Steward said this week as be prepared Lewis to confront Evander Holyfield for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world in New York tonight. "You have to think too much. Lennox is gonna have missiles firing at him, specially in this fight. There's gonna be bombs flying all over the place. You can't sit down and say, 'Let me pull out my chess board and figure this out.' No, he really has got to be instinctive."

And there the problem appears to begin and end for a fighter, born in West Ham of Jamaican parents, and raised in Canada, who hopes to wake up tomorrow morning as the first bearer of a British passport to hold the undisputed title. Lewis is a physical giant, his record shows only one defeat in 34 fights as a pro, and almost three months of training and eating his beloved mother's fish, rice, dumplings and beans must surely have brought him to peak condition for the higgest night of his life - the light that, he says, will "define" him. But it is his capacity for the instinctive response, the spontaneous initiative, that harms his chances in the eyes of experts. Including, evidently, those of his

Steward is a highly experienced and respected figure who would probably still he in Holyfield's corner had they not fallen out over the question of remuneration several years ago. He has plenty of praise for his current charge, hut also plenty of warnings. When he talked about how he planned to persuade Lewis to make more use of his excellent left jab at Madison Square hecame almost fatalistic. "We've talked ahout it, we've worked on it, now he's gotta do it," he said. "I'm

The problem is simply to get a good-natured man to come out fighting. "Lennox Lewis has to come out and establish his strength, physical and mental, in the fight," Steward said. "This is a weird fight to figure out. You can't say who's going to assume what role. It's not like Ali and Frazier, where you know who's going to do what. So he's got to come out and be prepared to stand up, and the first opportunity he gets he's got to let his missiles fly. He's a big man. He can't hesitate."

Hesitation - call it circumspec-tion. If you want to be kind - is widely seen as Lewis's weakness. Anyone who watched him get pushed around by Frank Bruno for five rounds at Cardiff Arms Park one chilly autumn night back in 1993 could be forgiven for cootinuing to harbour suspicions about his ability to take matters into his own hands, and the possibility that be will greet the bell for the start of a world title fight by waiting for the other man to make the first move is even supported by his own words. "This fight could take different avenues," he said this week. "One can never really tell what's going to happen until we get in there." And it is clearly a source of exasperation to his trainer, although the criticisms how they adapt to each other, how



"I'm very satisfied with the improvement in Lennox generally." Steward said. "If he comes out and fights to his potential, he is physically too powerful for Holyfield. But the improvement has not shown in the fights consistently. He and Evander both have been inconsistent heavyweight champions. There's never been that solid domination like there was with Ali or Frazier. Lennox can have a great fight against Tommy Morrison, and then come back and have a real lifeand-death against Ray Mercer. Even in the second fight with Oliver McCall he was still reluctant. The guy was crying, but Lennox still

wouldn't step it up." Lewis, of course, denies the charge. "I'm going to beat Evander in every possible way," he said. "I'm going to out-think him, out-box him, and out-punch him." But within moments of that assertion the sceptics were groaning at his response to a questioo about whether or oot he had a game plan. "No," he said. "I'm just going to let the fight unfold. We're both professionals and the fight could take different avenues. I'm very flexible in that, so I'll have to see what happens. This is the first time I'm fighting Evander and the first time he's fighting me, and we've both got different styles, so we're going to have to see

Delivered in Lewis's calm, almost other-worldly tones, these are exactly the kind of sentiments that lead some to conclude that he lacks the kind of warrior's heart that his opponent tonight so clearly possesses. "Evander has a great heart," he agreed. "But I don't think my heart should be questioned."

Frank Maloney, Lewis's chirpy little manager, backs his fighter's claim. An early assault from Holyfield, he believes, could play into Lewis's hands. "It may liven Lennox up. But I doo't think there's a problem. People say he's a slow starter, because he got caught by

and by Oliver McCall, hut he knocked Andrew Golota out in 93 seconds, and he's knocked a few other guys out in the first couple of

rounds.

What about the pasting he took at the hands of Bruno, before finally waking up? "I think Lennox felt he just had to walk in there and and hit Bruno and it would be all over You've got to remember that when Frank Bruno fought Lennox Lewis he raised his game by at least 100 per cent. If he'd boxed like that when he fought Mike Tysoo the second time, he'd still be world heavyweight

To some extent, Lewis is an

a history of contradictions. He beat Riddick Bowe for the Olympic super-heavyweight gold medal at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 and knocked out Razor Ruddockin the second round four years later, hut struggled against lesser fighters.

"Lennox is a strange guy," Steward confirmed. "But I will say this for him. When it comes down to the few situations where he has been involved in big fights, he's gone to another level. I will give him credit for that. Regardless of how he looks in training, if there's a big fight he's

Stories emanating from inside the training camp have been notably

'He's in great shape mentally and physically. He looks sharp. he's so focused for this fight. I think he's a danger to the human race at the moment' Frank Maloney

Lewis being severely embarrassed by a sparring partner. But Steward switched into cheerleading mode when he described the fighter's mood. "He's been extremely happy and confident. He's just like a little kid. From the day that the fight was signed he's been hubbling over with excitement. I just cannot see all of that energy and eothusiasm just

disappearing."
Every fighter, Steward continued, had one fight that he wanted above all others. "Evander always wanted Mike Tyson. He has a thing about hullies, especially short ones. Even when I was training him for his second fight against Riddick Bowe, all he could talk about was Tyson. That was the fight he always wanted. And Lennox has always wanted to fight Evander Holyfield. He's been totally obsessed with it. This is his opportunity, and I think he's going to shine. It's going to be a great fight, win or lose. I feel he should win it. but even if he loses it I can assure you it's going to be a war. There's no

a coward." For a trainer to use a phrase such as "win or lose" on the eve of a fight is remarkable in itself, but Steward quickly covered his words with more hopeful effusions. "I do feel that if Lennox comes out and fights to his potential, he's physically too about Manny Steward? "I'm going powerful for Evander Holyfield,"

way I'm going to be working with

anyone who's going to lose a fight as

which you guys [the media] keep overlooking. He's not a Riddick Bowe. He was too strong for Riddick Bowe. That brute strength and the burning desire he has to gain respect, and the knowledge that this is the first and only chance, that this is it, will carry him to victory. It's all gotta happen in this fight, or he can forget it. There's no other fights, no other second chances. It's like the end of the world for him."

And that, at last, was more like the Lewis camp's line. "He's in great shape, both mentally and physically." Maloney said. "He looks sharp, he's so focused for this fight. I think he's a danger to the whole human race at the moment. He could walk through walls, the condition he's representation in the condition he's representation in the condition he's representation in the condition he's representation he's r going to win in seven rounds. Inside me, I think it could even be over shorter.

For Lewis, who missed out on his

first shot at the undisputed title in 1992, when Riddick Bowe tossed the WBC belt into the nearest rubbish. bin, a seven-year itch is almost over "It's been out of my reach for a while," he said. "Now it's finally here, and I can prove that all those fighters who've been ducking me all these years were ducking me for a reason. I'm very confident in my own ability. I love being the under dog. And this is my time." And what to teach him the game of chess."

Pugilistic predictions are liable to be painful

quaintance suffered acutely from dyspepsia whenever called upon to predict the outcome of a prizefight. This uncomfortable condition was brought on by fear of being held up to ridicule in his local hostelry. "If I get it wrong those guys will jump all

over me," he would groan. The worst day in this fellow's working life was unquestionably 22 January 1973 when George Foreman scored a surprise secood-round technical knockout over Joe Frazier in Kingston, Jamaica, to become the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. Only two of his fellow pundits had got it right hut this was of oo consolation to him. "I'm sup-

KEN JONES

out ego] but who's going to take my word now?' he sighed.

This springs to mind from the fact that there has been no expert unanimity in the analysis of tonight's collision between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield at Madison Square Garden. Faced by the reliable chore of prediction, most of the fellow toilers I have spoken with sought endorsement of a lightly held opinion.

A terrific American boxing writer, the late Bob Waters of Newsposed to know something about day, was better at arriving at the boxing, and I do (he was not with- correct conclusion about big fights

relied entirely on logic and instinct. porary fame by taking a flier against the odds but Waters wasn't one of

Waters had a remarkable record. Back in the Fifties he forecast Ingemar Johanssoo's third-round knockout of Floyd Patterson when anyone who favoured the Swede was thought to have taken leave of their senses. He then predicted correctly that Patterson would regain the title by knocking out Johansson with a left hook in the fifth round of a re-match.

Great experience was at the core of Waters' judgement. An amateur boxer in his youth, he once took part fears that were held out for Ali in 1975

than anyone I have ever come in an exhibition bout with the great across. Setting all emotion aside he middleweight champion Tony Zale oo an aircraft carrier in the Pacif-Boxing writers have achieved tem- ic during the Second World War. Toward the end of the first round he landed a right cross that took advantage of Zale's generosity. "Cut my gloves off," Waters said on returning to his corner. "That mother says he's going to kill me and I believe

> Waters wasn't among the many who were required to eat their words when the then Cassius Clay caused a huge upset in February 1964 by stopping Sonny Liston for the heavyweight title. He'd got it right again as he did when Liston was knocked out in the re-match

The best was to come. Deaf to the

before he went up against Foreman in Zaire for the title, Waters predicted one of the most sensational results The main thing held out against

in boxing history. Waters' strike-rate was so good that it became a burden. "If I pick the wrong guy my editor hlames it on the booze," I remember him saying one night in Glasgow.

Down the years, I have tried many times to benefit - without his expertise - from the formula Waters applied to prediction. Place the attributes of both men alongside every known weakness. Go back over past performances for evidence of technical flaws and shortcomings in temperament. Remember that contrasting styles can be important. Never overlook desire. Who ap-

into the trap of any emotional

side of the Atlantic is that he first gained the World Boxing Council title by mail after Riddick Bowe cast it into a garbage can. The question who has he fought?" is central to the fact that only two American writers have publicly declared their

support for Lewis. However, Holyfield's record can be misleading. But for the 20-minute delay caused when a man and his paraglider dropped into the ring in Las Vegas six years ago, he would probably have lost three out of three against Riddick Bowe who, in compears to want it the most? Don't fall physical advantage. Holyfield's two

seen as further proof of a remarkable will, but he was up against a Lewis (unfairly to my mind) on this shot heavyweight of similar physical stature to himself.

Holyfield's uncharacteristic prediction of a knockout victory in the third round, based on an unshakeable belief in divine intervention. could work against him. "Hey, if Lewis is still there after three, Holyfield may figure out that God has gone to a basketball game," some-

There is still rather too much of the amateur left in Lewis but the view held here, although not with any great confidence, is that he will take the chance to be remembered mon with Lewis, had a distinct as a significant figure in the heavy-

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Weakened Tigers in test of title credibility

EDGY, VERY edgy. Leicester put their title credentials on the line at Northamptoo this afternoon and there is not the slightest guarantee that they will survive the triple-whammy awaiting them. By tradition, East Midlands derbies are fraught, mean-spirited affairs and today's little gathering will be no different. But the Premiership avourites go into this one with three unusually large monkeys clinging to their tigerstriped backs: they have not

RUGBY UNION BY CHRIS HEWETT

since the Saints returned to bigleague rugby in 1996, their England forwards are slap in the middle of a bugely demanding Five Nations campaign and their first-choice half-backs have disappeared from view.

Any bopes that Austin Healey might have returned to the fray after his notorious dalliance with a horizontal

out of the water by the Rugby Football Union disciplinary tribunal, who this week increased the scrum-half's 21-day suspension by rather more than 100 per cent. Then came a second body-blow in the shape of Joel Stransky's knee. The former Springbok stand-off will undergo key-hole surgery next week and may well miss the bulk of the Premiership run-in.

The player-coach's absence means another outing in the

is nobody's fool when it comes to the art of play-making, he is no Stransky either. Without their No 1 goal-kicker and organiser-in-chief, Leicester failed to subdue a pumped-up Richmond outfit in the cup a fortnight ago. Given the local rivalry and the fact that Northampton have Premiership ambitions of their own, the visitors will experience twice the degree

of heat this afternoon. It will be fascinating to see No 10 shirt for Pat Howard and how the respective captains, Northampton players can start. London Irish and Wasps, re-

while the 25-year-old Australian Martin Johnson and Tim Rodber approach what is certain to be a molten confrontation; after all, it was only seven days ago that they joined forces against the Irish in Dublin. "There can be no bigger club game than this m English rugby," said Rodber yesterday. "If Northampton had access to a 20,000-capacity stadium, I've no doubt there would be 20,000 people in it. This is a huge occasion and a huge challenge for us."

Whatever the outcome, the

a European Cup adventure next season: agreement on an English return to the competition is likely to be confirmed at a European Rugby Cup board meeting on 1 April and with 26 points in the bag, Rodber and company would have to go pearshaped to miss out. However, seven other clubs are still in with a chance of claiming the remaining places assumed to be on offer and four of them are in head-on collision this weekend.

table, include themselves in another bout of high-speed power play at Loftus Road tomorrow - their last meeting in Shepherd's Bush a fortnight ago made ice bockey look like a Terry Griffiths snooker match - and there are changes to both line-ups. Wasps are without Josh Lewsey and Rob Henderson, so Gareth Rees starts at full-back with Mark Denney

filling the gap in the centre. The

Irish bring Mike Howe and

Kirke and Rob Hardwick while Kevin Spicer gets a back row place ahead of Isaac Fea'unati. potentially dangerous side cap-

Bath meet Richmond with a tained by Jeremy Guscott. The west country men boast a back line of Perry, Balshaw, Guscott. Maggs, Adebayo, Catt and Cooper and given that a treasured European place depends on them finding some lateseason form, the 1998 Heineken Cup winners should be suitably

Clarke relishes survival fight

Richmond's rise has turned sour but the players, at least, refuse tilet the dream die on the field. By Chris Hewett

THEY CALLED it the Richmond Experiment and like so many experiments down the ages, Ashley Levett'a audacious attempt to inveot a designer all-star team for the new professional age has gone up in smoke, leaving behind it blackened faces by the dozen, singed eyebrows by the score and a filthy great hole where the roof used to be. Those players and hack-room staff who still have a job are earning a lot less money doing it and while a leaner meaner Richmood could yet rise from the ashes of a hundred broken dreams, the events of the last nine days oevertheless represent a dark moment in the fortunes of the English club movement.

Levett's snap decision to cut and run after sinking a cool £8m into reviving the longforgotten London dinosaur he exhumed three years ago, follows hard on the beels of Sir John Hall's dash for the shadows at Newcastle. Almost at a stroke, the professional game has lost two of its ploneering investors. Who next? Frank Warren wants out of Bedford, Tony Tiarks is off-loading Loodon Scottish to Bristol and Chris Wright has frequently bemoaned his lot at Wasps. Much to the delight of rugby's "we to you so" traditionalists, the money men are pulling out of town and heading for their

villas in the hills. Suddenly, the united froot presented by the clubs' umbrella organisation, English First Divisioo Rugby, appears to be precisely that: a front. The muscle-flexing pressure group that mounted a legal challenge to the International Board's rulebook, boycotted the European Cup and fought two years of trench warfare with the most powerful forces in the world game now looks like a seveo-

stone weakling.
"When Sir John turned his back on the sport after insisting he was in for the duration, he definitely sent out a signal to the st," said one source this week. His departure made it easier for Ashley to pull out. There was oo longer any shame attached to walking away. Some of those investors who do not come from a strong rugby background now see no reasoo why they should keep pumping money into a game that has given them nothing hut grief."



ranks of EFDR itself. It was no coincidence that Levett returned his wallet to his inside pocket within a week of Tom Walkinshaw, the Gloucester owner and EFDR chairman, announcing that the elite clubs would begin oext season's Premiership programme in September and play, albeit under-strength, through the World Cup. Walkinshaw's comments infuriated a oumber of investors, including Nigel Wray of Saracens. For Levett, the proverbial camel's back was oow carrying one straw too many. Frustrated, disillusioned and almost terminally cheesed off with the politics of incom-

petence, he reached for the plug and pulled hard. All this on the eve of a Premiership match the Richmond staff - at least, those that are left following Wednesday's purge by the financial consultants called in to take a bottomline view of the husiness confidently expect to attract the higgest crowd in the 138-year

Indeed, much of the current history of the club. Bath, this afgrief is to be found within the ternoon's visitors at the Madeiski Stadium, are going through a trough of their own - new conatioo Ground are said to be particularly brutal, with players being asked to agree salary cuts of up to one third - but that has oot stopped the match generating its own commercial momeotum. "We sold every

hospitality package mooths

ago," said one Madejski insid-

aire copper trader and full-time

tax exile unreservedly - after

names and a place in the Prea forthcom Cup semi-final with Newcastle - but there again, few are eager to sing his praises. "He certainly chose a bad moment to jump ship," groaned one member of the back-room staff this week. "We thought we knew

all, it was his money that gave on the road, his arrival pre-Richmond a team full of hig seoting the ambitious Loo- thing now is to react in a posidoners with a magnet powerful mlership élite, not to mention enough to attract the likes of sibilities oo board and perform Agustin Pichot and Allan Bateman. Had Clarke stayed in the West Country, Levett might well be £8m better off.

But Clarke did not earn uni-

versal respect as a "player's player" by curling himself into

'Too much time and energy have been invested in Richmond to let it wither and die. I want the squad to come across in the right way. In many ways, the club will stand or fall on our contribution as players'

er. "Sadly, we're not at all sure Not least to Ben Clarke. In whether there are enough people left at the club to cope with his way, Clarke was every bit as fundamental to the Richmond Not surprisingly, the very project as Levett's credit card; mention of Levett's name procertainly, he was more, far more, than a big-name player vokes mixed feelings amongst the Richmondites. Few are willand an inspirational leader. His ing to damn the multi-milliondecision to leave Bath and com-

him, we thought he was with us. a ball at the first sign of trou-This has come as a real smack ribly difficult, for everyooe involved," he admitted this week. "A lot of people have poured their hearts and souls into this club and I can't pretend that the events of the last few days haven't hurt. But at times like this, the real professionals stand up to be counted. As far mit himself to the new venture as I'm concerned - and I know effectively put the whole show I speak for the rest of the play-

ing squad - the most important tive fashion, take our respon-"Too much time and energy

have been invested in Richmond to let it wither and die. These three months we are spending in administration are crucial and I want the squad to come across in the right way. In many ways, the club will stand or fall on our contribution as players. As well as our cup semi-final, which is probably the biggest game in the history of the chib, we have some tremendous Premiership matches - Saracens, Wasps and Northampton all have to come to the Madejski. Of course I wish we had shown more consistency in the league; people come to watch a winning side, after all. However, we have to believe that

a run of good victories now will help turn things around." Just at the moment, Richmond are oot a pretty sight; bruised, battered and bloody, they look like an English heavy

WRU turn to talking sweet

SEVEN MONTHS after the event the bright sparks at the Welsh Rugby Union have finally decided to negotiate their way out of the ungodly mess involving the two strongest clubs in the country, Cardiff and Swansea, writes Chris Hewett.

Far from attempting to beat their high-profile rebels into submission with a hig stick, the WRU are oow keen to sweettalk them back into the fold and thereby solve the most damaging domestic dispute in the history of the red-shirted game.

A four-man WRU team incloding the president Sir Tasker Watkins, the chairman Glanmor Griffiths, the secretary Dennis Gethin and, most significantly, the national team manager David Pickering, will meet representatives of both clubs oext week amid high hopes that a lasting agreement can be reached.

Neither Cardiff nor Swansea have played Welsh Premiership rugby this seasoo - they exiled themselves after refusing to sign 10-year loyalty agreements - hut they have reached the quarter-finals of the cup, in which they meet Pontypool and Ebbw Vale respectively.

While the WRU agreed to suspend both clubs for failing to pay £150,000 fines arising from their unsanctioned matches with English opposition, it was a purely cosmetic measure. "The intention is to solve the current situation," Griffiths said yesterday. He declined to divulge details of any proposals, but it seems certain that the WRU will tempt the refuseniks antee them top level European Cup rugby next seasoo as well as a handsome financial incentive from the union.

smart money - none of it belonging to Levett - says the club Pontypridd and Llanelli have will survive and thrive as a Prebeen confirmed as "super clubs" and the national coach. "People are talking about Graham Henry, is keen to get us taking the so-called 'golden the two big guns back on board parachute' offered by EFDR in a similar capacity.

The Welsh decision to embrace the "super club" concept has cansed something of a furore in Scotland. The Scottish Rugby Union wants its owo super twosome, Glasgow Calewe can make rugby work in the dooians and Edinburgh Thames Valley. I still bold to the Reivers, to forge close playing ambition that brought me here in the first place: that we will be links with their brethreo from playing a Toulouse or a Brive the Principality next season, in a European Cup final withmuch to the disgust of the in three years and taking on the clubs in the Scottish Premier Auckland Blues or the Natal League. "We are totally opposed to this," said Brian Sim-Sharks at the Madejski within five. I know this sounds strange mers, the Glasgow Hawks given the week we've just enchairman, yesterday. "The SRU focus should be oo rugby in dured, but we feel good about Scotland, not Wales."

Hell in Havana tracking the Horse

THEY CALLED Alberto Juantorena, the Cuhan double Olympic champion of 1976, "El Caballo" – the Horse. I preme it was because of the length of his stride.

Unless, of course, that immortal piece of BBC TV commentary hy the late Ron Pickering - "And now Juantorena npens his legs and shows his class" - was closer to the mark than... But no. I expect it was the stride length. That was what I tried to keep thinking when I met him. In retrospect, our meeting

- at the Sport City complex in Havana - was unusual, given that the great man was 100 kilometres away at the time. That was, according to the Cuban officials whom I had o telephoned with increasing desperation in the preceding

days. "Señor Juaotorena has gone away on vacation," I was told. "One hundred kilometres away." "I am sorry," I was told, "Senor Juantorena is to write a piece about Cuban



ROWBOTTOM

no longer in Havana. He is on vacatioo." And how far ...? One hundred kilometres." They seemed so certain about the distance, these officials. It was almost enough to make a person suspicious -

a rising sense of panic. As mine were. My airy plan to stay on after Havan: 's staging of the 1992 World Jup of athletics in order

that is, a person whose facul-

ties were not over-manned by

sport had one tragic flaw: after the Lord Mayor's show there was nothing to report. Especially nnw the Lord Mayor himself – Juantorena headed Cuban sports development was on vacation.

Colleagues had flown back home, clutching dollar receipts for their outrageous phooe bills. The event nrganisers had disappeared. The subpress centre in the old Hiltoo Hotel had been dismantled, revealing a bare room. The caravan had moved on and the caravanserai was empty.

Waiting for the lift, I tried once again to identify the pervading odour of the botel. Cooking oil seemed to be there. Cooking oil and... aircraft fuel? Surely oot.

Tenth floor, ninth floor, eighth floor... was that the ooe where Castro had been staying when his American girlfriend had returned from the States with a pistol, ready to kill him, and theo relented? Must find out.

Lobby. Prostitutes arranged down the left-hand side. Ice cream on sale in the middle. And there, among the pot plants, was a familiar face one of the interpreters who had helped during the World Cup

Together, we took a taxi - a

Lada, naturally - to the only ob-

vious sporting site, namely Sport City. If anything was happening in Cuban sport, this was where it was happening. But not much appeared to be happening in Cuban sport rag-bag of different outfits; at that precise moment. I spoke to a couple of teenaged hoys who had arrived by bicycle for a swim. They liked swimming, and they had

had a pool. Where they could So where were the boxers? At a training camp, apparent-What about Javier Sotomayor, the world highjump champion? Out of town. 1 found myself drifting to-

wards a loudly contested bas-

come to Sport City because it

ketball match being watched by a handful of atudent-types. A grizzled man in a tracksuit ked on – previously a sprint coach, he was now in charge of Cuban basketball.

As the US trade embargo cut more deeply into his country's economy, and professional classes took to the streets - to queue for bread be was operating on minimal financial resources. The teams scrambling and shouting in front of us were dressed in a even the ball looked a thing of shreds and patches.

A new basketball, the coach explained, cost \$35. Perhaps, he added, raising an eyebrow towards me, the Independent might like to sponsor the Cuban Basketball Associatioo for the price of one? The Independent agreed, and once the game had concluded, and the ancient coach of the losing team had decided, ultimately, against suicide, we returned to the main office block.

Mooey may have been scarce at the Cuban sports institute, but there was no fast way of putting it in there. Even though we were at the end of a working day, forms need-ed to be filled and papers

Midway through the negotiations, as the Giraffe and the Pelly and me - sorry, the coach and the interpreter and I - stood in a corridor, we were greeted by a woman emerging from another office. Juantorena's office.

Asked - through my interpreter friend - when Juantorena would be back from his vacation, the woman looked puzzled. Seoor Juantorena was not on vacation. He would be back in his office tomorrow morning. An interview was arranged.

(Thank you God. Thank you basketball.) It yielded the necessary information. I have my own private name

for Juantorena now. I think of him as the Gift Horse.

Surbiton forced to take on Hull

SURBITON'S rearranged game with Hull will go ahead this afternoon in spite of a last-minute BY BILL COLWILL appeal to the English Hockey

League by the Surrey side. Surbiton travelled to Hull last tomorrow. week to find the pitch water-

logged and, in accordance with the League regulations, they were told they had to play on the slip date, namely 13 March The EHL responded quickoot too much will be at stake. ly to the appeal received yesterday morning, arranging

with Surbiton unable to raise someone to be part of the linkup the appeal was dismissed. Surbiton will travel to Yorkshire without their three South African who are away playing in the Test series against Australia but should have them back for tomorrow's normal League fixture away to Stourport. Surbiton are two points be-

hind leaders Doocaster but

with a game in hand. Doncast-

telephone conference facilities

to bear it later in the day. But

weight contender on a bad

night in Madison Square Gar-

den. But with more than 30 re-

dundancies already announced

mented, the worst may be be-

hind them. The hunt is on for

new investors and most of the

and turning our back on Pre-

miership status, but that's not

the way we see it," said Mal-

colm Ball, the sales and mar-

keting director. "I still believe

and the pay cuts switty in

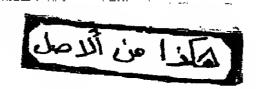
miership concern.

er entertain Harleston Magpies

Canterbury and Southgate will be depleted for tomorrow's top Premier game but, with both sides well on the route to qualification for the play-offs.

There is, however a great deal at stake for Chelmsford in the First Division, where a win against Barford Tigers would virtually guarantee a place in the restructured First Division next seasoo. However, they could be without four of their Uoder-18s who will be playing in the RAF Careers Youth Cup

quarter-finals. Havant HC is playing host to the Japanese National squad over the Whit weekend with three matches against a Great Britain squad and a fourth against England.



Outrageously gifted and on his way back

Paul Carberry's reputation as a party animal though outdated, has overshadowed the talent that could bring him next week's Gold Cup at the Cheltenham Festival. By Richard Edmondson

WHEN YOU mention the word Carberry the cheers go up all around and it is difficult to tell whether the loudest noise comes from the punters or the

This is a surname synonymous with excess, a father and son kissed by outrageous talent for riding horses and a similar gift for enjoying their victories. In an increasingly antiseptic sporting world, their deeds day and night are revered by anyone who has ever gripped a tankard.

Tommy started it. Ireland's multiple-champion National Hunt jockey uniquely, in 1975, rode the winners of the Gold Cup, Grand National and Irish Grand National in the same year (Ten Up, L'Escargot and Brown Lad). Among his raft of Cheltenham Festival winners were the Gold Cup triumphs in 1970 and 1971 of L'Escargot, the

than once. Next week, in Gloucester-

Riband of steeplechasing more

shire, Tommy's son Paul has the chance to join his father in the great race's roll of honour when he rides Dorans Pride. Third in the Gold Cup for the last two seasons and with a better chance on this year's softer ground, Dorans Pride gave Paul Carberry the chance to demonstrate his considerable skill when the rider virtually picked the horse from the floor for victory after a terrible mistake at Leopardstown over

It was a legendary piece of borsemanship and the sort of exploit with which his father would be familiar. At the Queen's Hotel in Cheltenham, when that establishment dazzled as brightly as anything on the Las Vegas strip, Tommy was the star turn. In his home-

From the same mould: Tommy and Paul Carberry

"play the maggot". The later he stayed up, the story went, the better he rode.

Genealogists may point out that Tommy's boy Paul is not an early mug of cocoa under the duvet man himself. The lad may be only just 25 yet the Carberry jnr stories already form a considerable mound: the time he rode into a pub on his horse, how he scrambled on to the roof of a speeding car and in through the opposite window, his attempts to ride a stag. A personal memory come

from Pardubice. One night last October diners had gathered at the Hotel Labe, which provides what passes for cordon bleu in that part of the Czech Republic. Couples may have been deflected from their meals and delicate conversation when Carberry, on piggyback, came bursting in and started riding a finish between the tables. Ferdy Murphy, the trainer, put an end to the high jinks by knocking out the jockey with alcohol and locking him in his room. This, in part, is Paul

probably nobody Carberry hurts more than himself. On the rare occasions be does err on the racecourse the easy accusation from the stands is that his private life is letting him down. The chiding, however, is never too prolonged as the Irish recognise that in this lean young man they have been delivered an extravagant talent even by the standards of their equine land. They compare him to that rider of the 1950s

another man about Carberry. Like Lester Piggott, his eloquence is in the saddle, not out

of it. Like the Long Fellow, he occupies the saddle with his backside in the stars. The Irishman rides on a long rein with his weight well forward, off the bonnet of the borse's engine area. He does not interfere greatly with a horse's mouth. They repay him by running very quickly. The first winner came at 16,

when Joseph Knibb carried him home in the virtual swamp of a Bray bunt point-to-point at Glencain. Competing between the flags and riding across raw terrain with bounds was bliss for the young man.

Carberry hunts with the sort of abandon Captain Scarlet be could have been smoking a might. If he had been in charge of the wooden horse there would have been no need for the Trojans to open the gates. "Out in the bunting field he is unmatched," Ireland's champion jumps trainer, Noel Meade,

across country like him. Above all he has no fear

Paul Carberry and Dorans Pride show the style that make them a significant force for Thursday's Gold Cup

"To stand and watch him schooling horses is a delight. It's poetry in motion because he'a got that gift of being able to squeeze them up there. It's not a forceful thing. He just uses his knees, his ankles and his elbows and gets horses to do what he wants them to do. It's something he's had from a very

We had this rough horse in once and he was after burying everyone in the indoor barn. Paul was the last to get up on him and the horse bucked. turned, tried to lay down and hacked up against the wall. But in five minutes Paul had the horse eating out of his hand and cigar up there."

Carberry has completed a loop by returning to Meade after three seasons based in England. In a different life, be was champion apprentice on the Flat when attached to

class from the first time he came to me. His actual riding ability, his horsemanship, is unmatched by anybody," the

trainer says. "Charlie Swan was the outstanding rider here for many years but I'm sure that he would be the first to sdmit that he doesn't have the natural talent, the riding ability, of a Paul Carberry. You look at other guys like Tony McCox who is an extraordinary jockey, so dedicated to his job, but Paul is in no way behind him.

"He has a talent like a footballer or an opera singer might have, he is just born and bred to do this job he is doing. The moment he is up on a horse he is so alive and so part of the scenery around him."

Noel Meade does not worry about Carberry and fences. He worries more that the jockey will be brought down by a reputation. Furthermore, he no longer recognises this man described so colourfully by tap-

morning then you can stay in bed all day, and there's no doubt that Paul was wild when he was younger," the trainer says. "In his teenage years he earned the reputation well and he's no saint now, but he's not the madman that everybody

seems to think he is. It might

be time to put that reputation

to bed [even if Carberry may not be in it]. "He needed to go away from Ireland and to go away from some of the people. It was too easy for him to be celebrating here. Ireland's a very small country and he's a very likeable fellow. People like him to be with them. He didn't mind being a bit

of a show-off. "But now ha's settled down so much. He went away to England a boy and came back a man. But it's hard to shake off that image now and it's always thrown at him."

Paul Carberry returned to the racecourse at Tramore on Thursday after three weeks' verest of compliments.

says. Carberry's principal emMeade's Co Meath stable. "I room legend, "If you get a recuperation from broken ribs. assure you that won't be true.

There is also something of ployer "You'll never see anyone just thought be was different name for getting up early in the A longer injury and absence He's too bloody good for that."

from Cheltenham would have been cruel as he has missed the meeting twice in recent years

As it is, the man said by Richard Dunwoody to be the most gifted jockey of them all, will be riding a sheaf of Irish contestants, notably Cardinal Hill in the opening Supreme Novices' Hurdle, Cockney Lad in the Arkle Trophy and Hill Som ciety in the Champion Chase, a well as Dorans Pride.

The good judges, those who know unusual talent, appreciate him. So do his colleagues. "Paul is not half as stupid as he likes to make out," Norman Williamson says. "At the start, he'll ask what the fences are like, how the ground is riding and even which way round we're going. Then the tapes go up and yon never see him again. He's just a brilliant jockey.

"People say he's in danger of being remembered for the things he does out of the saddle

Dr Jazz to set the key for revelry

NICKHENDERSON is undoubt- BY GREG WOOD edly one of our finest trainers, but he apparently lacks a certain something when it comes to imagination. It is true that he has a duty to his owners to find the most realistic openings for their horses, but surely, if ever there was a horse who deserved to take his chance at the Cheltenham Festival next week, it is Henderson's runner in the novice hurdle at Chepstow this afternoon. The beast's name is Bacchanal.

Perhaps he has an even more appropriate runner at home although if there is indeed a horse called Mad Booze And Betting Spree stabled at Seven Barrows, it has yet to see a racecourse. A more serious point, though, is that Bacchanal won his last race in the manner of a very useful novice, and the flying start to Cheltenham fact that he will presumably not be heading west next week implies that All Gong, Hender- Imperial Cup were its usual,

son's entry in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, may have a rather better chance than current odds of 25-1 might suggest. Bacchanal (2.00) should certainly be good enough to win today, assuming that he shows normal improvement against some talented but exposed

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Coulthard (Sandown 4.05) NB: Sualtach (Wolverhampton 4,25)

opponents. The odds will do little to fill anyone's pockets ahead of the Festival, though, and it is the Imperial Cup which most punters will turn to for a

Or rather, they might if the

vards. Dr Jazz and In Question, narrow favourite in ante-post

year, though, there are two - who was placed in a St Leger did so last year, and DR JAZZ improving animals from top on the Flat - last time out.

who seem to have the race leaves its money behind when between them. In Question, who one of its borses is laid out for is owned by the tipping service a race, but then neither does The Winning Line, has been the Martin Pipe who has made a habit of winning this race in betting this week, thanks to a 12- recent years on the way to length success in a well-run landing a £50,000 honus by novice hurdle at Ludlow, while completing a quick-fire double

	1969	90_	91	92	93	94	95_	96	97	98
Fate of the tavourites:	_1	3	0	3	_1	8	8.	6	2	1
Winner's place in betti	rg :5	8	6	1,2	3	· R	0	17	7	9
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Winners' ages:	6	5	5	7	6	8	5	5	5	5
Profit or loss to £1 stat	u: Fat	rounti	DS +1	22.50	Sec	ond F	NOUT	ites -	£425	
Percentage of witness	place	1 101,	2nd	or 3rd	ba la	et rec	e: 70			
Shortest-priced wirmer	Olym	pien (1983)	6-4						_
Longest-priced winner,	Precio	us Bo	y (159	84) 33	-1		_			
Top trainer: M Pure - Tr	avel M	yster	(198	O), Oh	and an	r (1990	3), Blo	wing	Wind I	1898
Top jockeys: P Soudam										

disk green, white chevron, light green streves, disk green and white check cap

6 ASS'4 CAMELOT KNECHT (479) (C), Wichael Gabey IN Trespon-Daves 13 10 0 ___C Lieuwithyn

8 -304PZ SEE ENOUGH (10) (C) (J A G Meader) R Budder 11 10 0 ____ R Johnson

field blast, cumiet been self-company

- 6 declared
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Canelot Set 13th, See Enough 8st 12th.

BETTING: 6-5 Salt By The Stare, 4-1 Rough Queet, 6-1 Ottoms, 7-1 Belmont King, 12-1 See Enough,

FORM GUIDE

FOHM GUIDE

Rough Queat: Won easily on second hunter chase start at Newbury when Staibridge Bill fell at the last was in front. 3b lower mark compared to his National victory Belmont Kings Scottah National wriner in 1997 and 3rd last year. Ughtly raced since and without a run since 8th to Tamanindo at Chetterharm in December. Best in soft. Sail By The Stara: Ren-length wirrier of this last year (Belmont King 4th) and impressive scorer from Zaggy Lane at Newbury last time. Fine chance of 7b higher obtained and title promise on two starts since, though stiff tests behind Hollybank Buck in Eider last time. Chance at weights and intensing booking Camelot Kinight; Hassil, won for sk years and without action since his 7-length 4th to Sarries over the National sences (pm3) in November, 1997.

See Enought: Mudloving stayer over hundes but still to win over lances. Modest novice form (2nd to Belly Lira here last time) and 16th out of handcap proper.

VERDICT: SAIL BY THE STARS is rock-sold in these slogs and is it worthy taxounte to follow up her will in the race 12 months ago. Terry Casey reports Rought Quest in top condition either his Newbury with but the 10th concession to the mane may be beyond him. Others would be a live threat if back to his best and his last win was gained over this course and distance.

L Wyer - Precious Boy (1991 and 1994)

16-1 Cernelot Knight 1898 Sai By The Stars 9 10 1 S Wynne 5-4 fav (T Forster) 6 ren

10-YEAR-TALE ON THE IMPERIAL CUP

highly competitive self. This Dr Jazz was second to The Fly at the Festival. Blowing Wind (nap 4.05), his sole runner from committing himself to the ride The Winning Line rarely four initial entries, can repeat on Teeton Mill in the Chelthe first half at least with victory this afternoon.

The Sandown card is surprisingly strong, with the final of the EBF National Hunt Novices' Hurdle series a fine supporting event. Tonoco, whose latest success was franked by the recent easy victory of Crazy Horse, will be a popular choice, but he carries top weight and may not be able I ride Teeton Mill in the Chelto give 22lb to Count Campioni (next best 3.30). Jenny Pitman's runner is another novice of great promise.

Other worthwhile bets are thin on the ground, but In The Blood (2.30) and Belmont King (1.30) have solid chances at King George VI Chase and Chepstow, the latter in a race Ascot Chase. He is 5-2 joint which includes the 1996 Grand favourite for the Gold Cup with National winner, Rough Quest. Ladbrokes alongside Florida

Today's Ayr card, page 26 Pearl.

NORMAN WILLIAMSON yesterday ended speculation by tenham Gold Cup.

The Irishman has ridden

Teeton Mill in all four starts this

season but his position in the saddle had appeared less than certain in recent days as reports suggested he would part-Dundee instead. In a statement yesterday morning he said: "I confirm that

tenham Gold Cup. I think he has an outstanding chance and would not wish to be on any other horse." Teeton Mill is officially rated

Britain's best chaser after wins in the Hennessy Gold Cup.

leader for the Royal & SunAlliance Chase having won his last three starts in novice company but his trainer, Eddie O'Grady, is considering switching him to the Gold Cup.

Stephen Winstanley, speaking on behalf of Teeton Mill's owners, The Winning Line, said: "We are delighted that ner the leading novice Nick Norman Williamson has confirmed he will ride Teeton Mill, although we never really had any doubt be would take the

"Obviously we appreciate he didn't want to hurn his hridges with connections of Nick Dundee, especially if that horse isn't going to run anyway. I know that Norman feels the horse has an outstanding chance, and Teeton Mill has been working really well re-

"As far as The Winning Line and Venetia Williams [the train-

Williamson decides Nick Dundee is 7-4 market er] are concerned the race can't come soon enough."

One horse for whom the Festival may have come too soon is Direct Route, former favourite for the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

Although Direct Route was among 14 horses left in the race at yesterday's declaration stage, his trainer, Howard Johnson is still battling against bad weather which has hindered the gelding's preparation for next Wednesday's contest.

"Things have got worse here," a stable spokesperson said. "Howard is despondent. We've had rain and snow and now we have got fog."

Queen Mother Champion Chase scoep-tors: Ask Tom (traned: Tiste), Call Equiname (P Nichola), Celbate (C Mann), Cumbrier Challenge (T Easterby), Ofrect Route (J H Johnson), Edelweis Du Moultin (Mes V Willems), Edredon Bleu (Mes H Knight), Green Green Desert (P Nichols), Hill Society (N Meade, M), Kadestrof (R Dickin), Lord Dorset (A Chartion), Mulligan (O Nicholson), Or Royal (M Pipe), Papillion (T Walch, kit).

CHEPSTOW

HYPERION 1.00 Quistaguay 1.30 Sall By The Stars 2.00 Bacchanal 2.30 Storm Damage GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

3.05 Garolsa 3.40 Native Fling 4.15 Dmowski

GOING: Soft [Good to Soft in places].

If Left-hand, uncluding course with a one mile straight.

If Course is on A486. Chapstow station (Cardif - Gloucester line) Im. ADMISSION: Cube 16. Tuttersalls Iff (DAPAIS); Course 66 (OAPs 53. Under-16s free, CAR PARIC Free, If LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 41-206 (1994), P Nicholia 30-104 (28.8%), P Hobbe 28-133 (27.2%). N Twistion-Davies 22-23 (17.9%).

If LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 36-154 (23.4%), R Durrecody 23-113 (20.4%), C Utewellyn 15-112 (16.1%), I Johnson 16-89 (18%).

M EAWNURTES: 152-300 (18.9%). M FAVOURITES: 152:398 (38.2%).

BLINKERED PRIST TIME: Quietaquey proced, 100). LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLERS: Cottatown Boy (100) & Blue Charm (230) sent 402 miles. 1.00 JACK BROWN HANDICAP HURDLE (B) £9,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Valus £6,185 0211-0 LANKKARAN (42) (C) (Hon Smon Sansbury) H Day 8 12 0

CCT-0 CARRONAN (RC) (C) (PCR SMOOT SATERLY) H 199 8 2 0 1 14 Sentation C-042 JUST MP (28) (0) 8 Seal D & M Evans I M's I. Referred 6 11 51 1 M Beachaire (3) 1622 COTTSTOWN BOY (21) (0) (1 Cochrane) Ms S Bractoure 8 10 9 Mr M Brachaire (3) 1622 LORD OF LOVE (15) (Alcute Racing) Milliano 4 10 9 1 B Cilibord 1-55 DANGEROUS GUEST (8) (8F) (M'S Surry J Old 7 10 0 B College C Lowellyn 17P-P CAMIDIA BLECTRIC (23) (0) (Ms IJ Johnsey) Mss C Johnsey 7 10 0 R Therston 14055 CIUSTACUAY (26) (CD) (01 Barry J Mulins 7 10 0 B College (3) V 1 Therston 1504 Mr Milliano (15) V 1 Thersto

- 7 declared Ascensum weight: 10st True handicap weighten. Claudia Electric 9st 11th, Oudstequey 9st 8th.
BETTING: 5-2 Lord Of Love, 11-4 Just Np., 4-1 Cottstown Boy, 5-1 Lannicemen, Dangerous Guest,
10-1 Cuttangosy, 20-1 Claudia Electric
1996. Oustaguay 6 10 0'A Bates (5) 11-2 (J Malins) 5 ran

FORM VERDICT The progressive Lord of Love, well thought of by his trainer, could easily be a blot on the handicup but he is not a natural jumper and preference is for the tough and garune JUST NIP, who showed himself better than ever last time and may be able to cope with the drop back in tip, given Lanniteren and Cottstown Boy are possible page-setters. Lanniteren is definitely interesting now he steps up in tip and appeals more than Newbury flop Dangerous Guest.

1.30 TOTE HANDICAF CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 BBC1 added 3m 2f 110yds Penalty Value £9,997 SEP PT ROUGH QUEST (8) (A T A Wates) T Casey 13 12 0

rough quest navy blue, preen assit, certed cap F43-P5 BELSMONT KING (92) (C) (Nrs Béle Bond P Nichols 11 2 0 ... p.nk, black braces, invente alseres, pinir cap, black demand 1-4051 SAIL BY THE STARS (28) (CD) (T F F Nicon) H Doly 10 11 4.

dark green and grange (customed), grange steeles and car

2.00 M & N SIR PETER O'SULLEVAN NOVICE BBC1 THER ALHOSAM (29) (7) (No. Carly G L Moore 1) P

make and pirk check, while steeres H32 LAWAHEK (28) (D) (Jack Joseph) C March 11 5 ... noted blam, and spots, black cap, white spots noted by SSLBERRY (3) (D) (8 Mrs OW H Bell) E L James 11 5 -5 declared -BETTING: 5-4 Bacotseed, 15-8 Darrocki, 5-1 Laurahit, 10-1 Albossam, Salberry

Effectual 5 ft 5 S Kelly 2-1 (Mee V Williams) 5 ft

FORM GUIDE

mr. Back in a novice with two penaloes after the latest hicap 6th of 7 to Pick-Attributes a Newbury under top weight. Held on book by Lawshik on Kempton form Bacchanak Confirmed debut promise (2nd to Tonoco) with 11-length win from Lord-bernebouffart et Sandown. Can improve further and handles soft ground. Devosità: Tough customer. Battled well against Premier Generation at Kempton last time and had Leveluk (4th better) 14 langthe behind on earlier win at Kempton. Leveluk to improve to reverse Kempton form with Davosid and 2nd to the smart Samelean at Haydock last time. Possibly not good enough. Settlemy: Has trok access in December and latest 2nd to Roker Joker at Bangor in handicap seemingly not good enough for this

VEROICT: Devoald is proving himself a real tough sort and he stands his racing well. The latest spirited affort against the useful Premier Generation gives him a fine chance today but he may again be hird by the Handerson yard, this time by BACCHANAL, who can improve again after just two starts. He repressed at Sandown and could just prove to be a shade better class than Devoald.

2.30 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN HANDICAP CHASE BBC1 PASES THE LAND AGENT (14) (D) (D) Bare) J Maire S (1 D.

brown, white hoop, hooped sieuws, crange cap 2-1942 BLUE CHARM (14) (D) 94's M C Lindsay Mrs 8 Budburne 9 11 4.....Mr M Bradburne (S) parts and royal Date (halves), hopped aboves, guarated cap

33122 STOTAL DAMAGE (14) (CD) (T CurryC Lawley Matheil) P Notices 7 Ti 2 ____ I Tiosand
yellow, block size, amendad green cap, black clear

Pe0053 STATELY HOME (7) (D) (P Bowert) P Bowert 8 Ti 13 _____ R Johnson

SETTING: 2-1 The Land Agent, 8-4 Storm Damage, 5-2 Stare Charm, 8-2 in The Blood, 10-1 State 1998: Wadson Conty 8 ti 7 A Farrant evens lav (P Hobbs) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE
The Land Agent: Turned over Muligar at Wincardon but held by 3 lengths by Storm Damage at Kempton. 3b better off and fine 2nd to Dr Leunt leat time (2m). Blue Channe Caucht close home by Neuse Bird at Heydock a fortnight ago with Storm Damage (3b better) 5 lengths back. Stays well and whis on all types of ground. Storm Damage (3b better) 5 lengths back. Stays well and whis on all types of ground. Storm Damage Made numing at Haydock last time when 3rd to Mouse Bird and Blue Chann. Fine chance on serier Kempton win from The Land Agent. Stately Home: Ideal trip but more effective on lest ground. Very well handcapped on in his two wins in 1997. Wanted run lest time (3rd to Astwell Boy at Newbury). In The Blood: Has won in lower grade at Fortwell (best Jeson's Boy) and over C&D (battled back against Vibee). Acts in heavy and every chance getting the weight.

VERDICT: The Land Agent did little wrong against Dr Launt over three miles at Kemp-ton and the shorter trip probably suits him better. STORIM DAMAGE beat him well enough at Kempton previously and may do so again on just 2b worse terms. Storm Damage has since been besten at Haydook and looks held by Blue Charm, but he ran from the front with top weight there and can prove the form to be wrong.

3.05 PETER DOBSON ALLEN MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS D) 24,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Psnsity Value £2,996 OF SIT OF KINNAIT DIZ) [7] IG McCourt G McCourt 6 117 BORDER REVER (201) (As R Vaughar) N Twiston-Davies 8 ti 7 _____ C. Lieu
 CARA CANE (SST) (SST) (D Descon) A Corrol 8 ti 7 _____ O McPix

FORM VERDICT A weak maiden by any standards and GAROLSA looks to have been found the ideal opportunity to make a winning British debut after showing ability over hundles in Francis. The only other runner with any hundling form is Chara Caine and that was in selling company early lest term but one of the representatives of the bigger stables, such as Border Reiver or Gone Balifettle may emerge as a bigger threat.

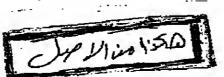
3.40 CLIVE GRAHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £3,740

FORM VERDICT IRSEE, who goes well here, look good for a return to wirrung ways after his nar-row detect in a heredicap over the course and distance 10 days ago. He meets the consistent Native Filing 13b better than he would in a handicap and wat reight the ground. Romancer has plenty of salent but has not always tooked idea; draging ma-

4.15 TOTE PLACEPOT NOVICE HANOICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 4YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,531

- 6 declared -BETT(NG: 11-10 SatSer's Secret, 4-1 Rajett, 5-1 Tut, 6-1 Dromaid, 12-1 Felcon Sale, Ayen 1998: Another Night 4 10 S R Farrant 7-2 (P Murphy) 7 ron

FORM VERDICT Sedier's Secret, likely to be popular after a good run at Lecester last time, will be difficult to best despite top weigh but Fiss winner TUI showed she is grasping what is required over hurdes when third on soft going at Ludow last time and a literal in-in front of Dimowski at Heydock but could not be recommended with confidence after flopping on Monday.





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RESULTS

PUNTERS' GUIDE

Answer is to be found In Question

The former top jump jockey Steve Smith Eccles analyses

today's Imperial Cup Ten Gold Trophy and has each-

Sir Talbot: Live each-way prospect on his best form but the ground may be now against him. Alabang: Made late headway on his reappearance at Sedgefield before blundering at the last but others are preferred. Road Racer: Out with tha

washing at Doncaster over an extended two miles. Dr Jazz: The only runner from Martin Pipe's four original entries, he showed plenty of promise when caught at the last by The Fly at Newbury and must go close.

In Question: Useful middlence performer on the Flat who holds Cheltenham Festival ements. Worthy favourite, though he lacks experience.

Effectual: Ran creditably in the Call My Guest: Fell when fanan extra half-mile. Up in class. Coulthard: Disappointing fav-ourite for Doncaster handicap. Regency Rake: Fifth last year and suited by soft ground but has shown no form this season. Siren Song: No serious chance. Samanid: Unreliable and likely to make mistakes.

Time For Action: A consistent servant in his own class but little

Conclusion: IN QUESTION ran his division of a Ludlow novice hurdle half a second faster than fellow winner Ballysicyos, and carried 17lb more. He is open to further improvement and can overcome his lack of ex-perience. Dr Jazz looks sure to be in the shake-up.

CHEPSTOW

1.30: SAIL BY THE STARS HYPERION'S was eased right down when she beat Zaggy Lane at Newbury four weeks ago. She is over the same trip so can be backed to follow up her success in this race 12 months ago.

2.00: Davoski is a tough old devil but he looks up against it with BACCHANAL a sure-fire improver after winning in great style at Sandown following an eye-catching debut at Hunting-don.

aaa2.30: STORM DAMAGE can bounce back after carrying a big weight in defeat at Haydock. He is handicapped to confirm Kempton superiority over The hand Agent and the stable's horses are running extra well at

SANDOWN

2.55: This should concern only Ballad Minstrel and NATIVE CHARM, with the 5lb allowance just giving the mare the edge.

TV TIPS

3.30: LEABURN is the only one of these not to have won but he went close to upsetting Santabless on his debut and can confirm that promise today.

4.05: The lightly-raced SIR TALBOT is a hurdler with potential to match that of the well-touted novices Dr Jazz sound each-way claims.

4.40: Another chance is given to BITOFAMIXUP, who made such a good impression as a novice last season.

WOLVERHAMPTON 2.40; Ray Cochrane can pounce late with BOLD EFFORT.

4.25: WEETMAN'S WEIGH, in top form, can take this prize.

SANDOWN

1.50 Gale Toi 2.25 Barton Scamp 2.55 Native Charm 3.30 Leaburn

4.05 SIR TALBOT (nap) 4.40 Bitofamixup 5.15 Majiiro

GODING: Chases: Good to Soft, Good in places. Hurdle: Good to Soft. Soft in places.

III Right-hand course; seven testing fences along back straight; run-in of 300yds.

III Course is on A307, 4m S of Kingston. Eaher station (service from London, Weterloo) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Cub E17, Junior Club (17 - 21 yrs) £14; Grandstand & Paddock £12; Park enclosurs £5. CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

III LEADING TRAINERS: D Nichotson 21 wins from 103 runners (20,4%), J Old 19-56 (339%), N Henderson 16-105 (18,2%), P Hobbs 13-52 (25%).

III LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 31 wins from 29 rides (24%), A P McCoy 20-108 (18,9%), J Osborns 17-90 (18,1%), A Maguire 17-90 (18,0%).

III FAVOURITES: E2 wins from 351 races (success rate 34,5%).

BLINIGERED FIRST TIME: Archises Oats (viscored, 150).

1.50 DICK MCCREERY HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value \$2,762

RETTING: 4-5 Extra Strut, 7-2 Kibreel, 4-1 Gala Tol, 11-2 Archies Outs, 25-1 Desert Caim, 53-1 1998: Minister For Fun 10 ft 7 Mr J Nichol (7) ft-2 (E O'Grady, M) 9 ran

FORM VERDICT

EXTRA STOUT is taken to supplement yesterday's gains, though obviously the un-impown variable is just how much that race took out of him. At least he looked pacey enough to cope with this shorter trip whereas, conversely, there are stamina doubts about main rivals Kibruet and Galle Tol.

2-25 BARCLAYS BANK (AMATEURS) HANDICAP HURDLE (E) 26,000 added 2m 110yda Penalty Value £4,202

BETTING: 7-2 Province, 4-1 Studio Thirty, 6-1 First Top, Berlon Scamp, 7-1 Round Robio, 6-1 Dark Romance, Incer Light, 14-1 Eiben Al Habash, 18-1 Bunges Jumper 1898: Plar From Furny 7-12 9 Major O Elwood (7) 11-4 (G Balding) 0 ran

FORM VERDICT Inner Light is potentially well handcapped and the fact he has form on the course adds to the interest but he does lack the experience of PROVINCE, who has ac-quitted himself well on both starts this term. Barton Scamp ran well test time and

2.55 BURNT OAK & SPECIAL CARGO NOVICE C4

— 4 declared — BETTING: 11-8 Native Charm, 8-4 Ballad Minstel, 9-2 Cifton Bost, 6-1 Head For Heaven 1998, Doniksavsthenest 8 11 0 N Williamson 7-2 (R Cartis) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Bailed Ministret: Won at Cetterick (2m, good) in December, Good second all other starts over fences, to Aghawadde Gold at Wetherby (2m, soft) and Bamburgh Boy at Musseburgh (2m, good to firm) last two starts. Birkered last time outlings Clifton Beat: Useful hurdler, Not so good over fences lest term, numer-up twice before beating Squire York 3 tengths at Newton Abbot (2m, good to firm) in May Head For Heavier: Gained first win over fences (test had plenty of experience) in 5-numer race at Fortwell (2m3t, soft) 8 days ago by 2 lengths from Smart Guy Native Chamtr. Has went three of four completed starts over fences, from 2m to 2m4t. Easy test at Ludlow last time. 12 lengths second to Wynyard Knight at Doncester VERDICT; Enough has been seen of Clifton Beat and Head For Heavier over fences to suggest strongly that they face attit tasks against BALLAD MithSTREL, and Native Chamtr. The latter pair are useful recruits to chasting, both sound jumpers, and their second places against two of the best novices in the North, in Aghawadda Gold and Wynyard Knight, Indicates there is little between them.

3.30 EBF 'NH' NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE FINAL C4 TONOCO (39) (T Hemmings) Mrs S Smith 8 12 0.

35-13 STORM OF GOLD (70) (5) (S W Clarke) C Marri 8 10 13 ... durk green and white seigns, black and whose seigned steeres
4831 SACK ON THE LASH (15) (Liverpool Low-Life) Max V Williams 7 10 10...... N Williamson
and and white (quantered), cleak black steeress, and cap, white etc.

55321 GALAPIAT DU MESNEL (54) (20) Quillon in Mind) N Henderson 5 10 0 I R (kwamagin

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicep weights: Roi De La Chesse Set 12b, Cetter Keith Set 10b. BETTING: 6-1 Back On The Lash, Count Campioni, 11-2 Younce, 6-1 Woodlield Gale, 8-1 Lusburn, 9-1 Guilder, 10-1 Lordbernielouvillani, 12-1 Sentabless, 14-1 Galapiat Du Mesrill, 16-1 others (100 0 11 2 D O'Sullivan 9-1 (R Rowe) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE

Tenoco: Has won all three starts over hurdles, on soft surface at Haydock, Hurstingdon (by 11/4 lengths from Bacchanat) and Watherby (by nack from Crazy Horse). All those noces were at accord 2m, but he should stay further. Capable of better yet Santabless: Struggled to beat Leaburn at Burton (2m3), heavy). 12/4 lengths third to Buckstde of Ascot (2m, good to soft, railying as if 2m44 would suit him very well Woodfield Gale: Improved upped to 2m4(, winning at Wetherby and Newcaste (twice) before 2f/4 lengths second to All Gong at Doncasto: Goes well on a soft surface Storm Of Golds 2m4t winner at Haydock and Uttoster, by length from Professor Cool at latter. Well held in third of 5 to Kingt Road in Newbury Grade 1 (2m5), soft) Back On The Lesth: Made as to win at Toucesser (2m, heavy) by 9 lengths from Lord-bemishoutflant and at Mariact Resen (2m3), soft) by 12 lengths from Ryalux Gatepist Du Mesnit: Has had three runs at around 2m4t here, placed at Kempton and Windsor before wide-margin win from esteed Goldy's Son at Plumpton (Newy) Guilder: Made most to win twice at Bangor (2m1f) this term, by 15 lengths father. Below form, but faced stiff task, on his one previous try at 2m4f. Acts on soft generation Gele 1/4 length (distance class of real) over 2m4f on soft of Falestham Lordbernlebouffsint: Better at 2m4f then 2m, closely matched with Woodfield Gele on their form in frame behind All Gong of Doncaster (good to soft) in January Lesburn: Very promising dout to run Santabless to 1/4 length at Raurton (2m3), heavy). Beaten 4 lengths by Star Of Dungennon at Kempton (2m, good) lets two starts, beating Berlin Blue by nack at Doncaster and strot to impressive Action of Newcaste. Certifist Keith's Won at Windoor (2m, good to soft) in Newcaste. Certifist Keith's Won at Windoor (2m, good to soft) in Newcaste. Education in two novice handicape since on soft, suggesting he has something to find. First try at 2m4f VERDICT: With nearly at of the field still possessing significant promise, this looks servers wit **FORM GUIDE** VERDICT: With nearly all of the field still possessing significant promise, this looks extremely competitive. Tonoco and COUNT CAMPIONI are both unbesten over hurdles and make planty of appeal, and Jenny Pitments cheege may have been let in on a very feworable mark after just one hurdles run in which he got the better of another promising sort at Fakenham. A decent case can also be made for Back On The Lash, Lord-

4.05 SUNDERLANDS IMPERIAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (B) \$30,000 2m 110yds Penalty Value 33756 EFFECTUAL (21) (D) (B C Dice) Miss V Williams 0 11 10... 42-020 FINAD RACER (42) (0) 9 Gamety P Waldow O 11 2 Spit brown, marvel hour, fight bite collect cuffe and cap 521-72 DR JAZZ (NZ) (25) (FA Deel) M Fipo 7 11 0 clark blue, yellow cross belts, coller and culle, striped cap N GUESTION (18) (0) (The Winning Line) Miss V Williams 5 10 13 ... white, black assurs, white and yellow holled alsews, yellow cap 1PSF CALL MY GUEST (16) (Darek 0 & Mrs Jest P Care) R Peacock 9 10 8 A Thorn ald green triple diamond, emerald green and red diabolo on stewee, white cap, emerald

emerald green and red (quartered), emeral - 12 dec raid green steeves, red armiets, white cap -12 decembed Minimum weight: 10st. Two hendicep weight: Time For Action 3st 13fb.
BETTING: 5-2 Dr. Juzz, 3-1 in Quagtion, 5-1 Str Tabbut, 7-1 Regency Rains, 16-1 Alabang, 14-1 Elfectual, Road Races, 14-1 Coolithand, 18-1 Time For Action, 26-1 others
1998: Blowing Wind 5 Til 10 A P McCoy 5-1 fav (M Pipe) 15 ran

FORM GUIDE

Effectuals in good form in competitive handlarps, fifth in Tota Gold Trophy at Now-bury and such to ismono at Ascot (2014), but handlarps may have his measure Sit Talbott Beat Polar Prospect in length at Chepetow and second to Trutchev at Chet-terham, both at 2m on good to soft. Plenty of potential. Would Be drying ground Alabarag: Poor effort in this 12 months ago, but made a promising reappearance on first run since. Sometimes a weak finisher, and soft going might stretch his stamina. Road Racer: Very useful novice last term, but has produced two disappointing runs and only one creditable one (second to Seranus at Kerripton) this season Dr. Jacc: Novice who has had two runs in Britain, 10-length winner at Folkestone 2011, heavyl and 2 lengths second to The Fiv at Newbury 22m, cools). Not an imposeron imposeron heavy) and 2 lengths second to The Hy at Newbury (2m, good). Not an imposing in-dividual, but he is clearly unexposed and open to further improvement.

In Question: Fairly useful middle-distance stayer on Flat in 1997. Back in action with workmanilies win on hunding debut of Keleo (for Chris Thornton) and vasity improved 12-length win over Besman at Ludow, both races at around 2m on good to soft Call My Guest: Won twice in summer. Good that to Tutcher at Cheltenham, chance Call My Guest: Won twice in summer. Good third to Tutches at Chelterham, chango of reversing places with 5t "albet on revised terms but is much more exposed coultinents intertwice this term, winning twice on very soft. 14—length variet from Kino's Cross (winner twice since) at Warwick reads very well. Below form latest Regency Relea: Fifth in this race (2m, good to soft) 12 months ago off this mark. Below form in two very competitive races back in Ireland this seeson in two very competitive races back in Ireland this seeson Stren Songs Some cherce on whiting efforts in two small races late fast year Well held in Tote Gold Tripthy and ran poorly at Warwick week later, his last two outrigs Semandd: Mostly good efforts late lest year but now looks pretty exposed. Reportedly gurgled when pulled up over longer trip perulaimete start. Fell at the fourth on latest

Time For Action; Wan at Taunion (2mt), sort in December by 19 lengths (5th higher here). Good third to Ginger Fox at Doncaster (2mt), good) latest outing VERDICT: Outs possibly a below-per renewal of this prestigious handlosp, with most of the numers looking exposed. Two obvious exceptions are the novices Dr. Jazz and IN QUESTION, both of whom have had just two runs over hurdles in this country, with the letter perfectionly hard for the official handicapper to assess after his two wire; the form of his second thumph was boosted by the runer-up Besmanis win at Wincarton on Thursday, Most interesting of the runninder is the lightly-raced Siz Talbot, whose connections laid out Coller Bay to win this in 1985.

4.40 RACEFORM ON SATURDAY H'CAP CHASE (C) £10,000 3m 110yds Penalty Value £7,035 2273P/ PERCY SMOLLETT (712) (D) (R G Munay) D Nicholson 11 12 0 white, cargo and write value or responsible to the first that is a first that the control of the first that the first that the control of the first that the control of the control of the first that the control of the first that the control of the first that the control of the

md, dark green star - 9 declared -— w concared —

Minimum weight: 10st. True hendicap weights: Little Routing 6st 1.3b.

BETTING: 2-1 Mountain Path, 4-1 Bilohankup, 11-2 Native Player, Sharp Command, 8-1 Lively Keight, Arter Mole, 10-1 Percy Smollett, 20-1 others

1998: Eulogy 8 10 13 R Dunecody 5-2 law (R Rowe) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE lett: Only two runs in 1996/97, third in the Racing Post Chase and pulled pleme in the Irish National, it would be a training feat to have him ready today. Lively Kniight: Won at Wincanton (Smit good) in November 1997. Has run in 3 very hot handicaps since, returning from injury when pulled up at Donosster in January Bitofamburg: Did well in hunter/hovice chases. Probably in need of race when south of 7 in Recing Post Chase at Kempton on reappearence. Still a horse of potential Arter Mole: First run for it months and well out of handicap in Weish National at Chep-

Artise Mole: First run for 1t months and well out of handicap in Welsh National at Chepsions, showing promise but pulled up lame before 0 out. One to consider Billingoed Grutif: Back from two-year absence when showing table last month Mountain Path: Won 12-runner race at Worceater (2m7t, heavy) in November by 8 lengths, Looked interesting off 7th higher, but failed to improve again following month Sharp Command: Winner at Sedgetfield and Cetterick (twice) this season, at 2m51 to 3m1t Further creditable efforts in frame recently and should be in shake-up again Native Player: Prustrating novice, mostly despipositing this term but much better effort when upped to 3m for second of 5 to Kingts Barker at Kempton (good) latest Little Rowley: Way out of the handicap proper

VERDICT: Bitofamburp is the most interesting if he has come on for his reappearance in the Racing Post Chase two weeks ago, but a reasonable case can also be made for Arter Mote, MOUNTAIN PATH, Starp Command and Native Player Mountain Path is given a second chance to fulfil the promise he showed with an easy win on his

5.15 HMS SANDOWN OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (H) £1,750 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,620

Gold, Roaco, 25-1 others 1998; Semerts Pride 5 11 4 C Maude 20-1 (S Brookshow) 18 ran

FORM VERDICT

ain Scott, 11-2 Norsons Mr

7-1 Weetnen's Weigh, 12-1 Italien Symphony, Retreen, 14-1 others 1996: Fsylk 4 B 12 7 Williams 5-1 (A Newcombe) drawn (2) 13 zan

On the limited form evidence available sight preference is for Needwood Lion from King Wizard. However, this looks like quite a hot bumper with some useful looking new recruits on breeding and, as such, DUSK QUEL, from the reform Henderson yard, is the selection. The market could prove particularly informative, though.

83326- CAPTAIN SCOTT (245) (D) (Write State Partnership) J Glover 5 6 8. . .. J Fortune 4

2010-4 JAV-OWE-TWO (12) (CO) (Country Lane Pship) R Whiteler 5 8 3 Dawn McKeown 3 V royal blue, white hoop, royal blue sleeves, red armiets and cap

- 13 declared -

FORM GUIDE grasine: Latest win gained in 71 Llated at Heydock. Speedy and heed-2nd to Canovas eart at Nottingham (51). Stiff task with 10st after layoff and on AW for the first time

Stallen Symphony: 7-times course winner over shorter and 7th higher since latest suc-cess. Looks hold on recent form by both Weetman's Weigh and Weiville Nomore Mr Niceguy: Won in good style here in November and threshed italian Sym-phony at Lingflett next time. Tip (8i) too short lest time. 2nd in this lest year

bruchy as Leighest has clinic. Inp (a) no solon less time and in a sery year. Weethers Weight in fine form (4th higher since latest win, 3rd audiceae here). Every chance back over extended mile after latest 2nd to Flying Officer here (7t). Weivillia: Improving and followed 8-length win from Topton with head success from Redoutstable, both at Ungfleid. 4th higher and chances if acting on this surface. Retrieve Won meiden here and improved at backend with fine win from Prince Baber at Newmarket (fm) in October. Every chance if sharp enough on first start since. Toptons: East at 71 and twom behind Weivillia over an at Lindfeld on recret starts. Sin

Topton: Best at 71 and twice behind Welville over 1m at Lingfield on recent starts, 5to

Jay-Owe-Two: Overcame stumble to beat Be Warred here in December, Promising

4th to Windshift at Southwell 12 days ago. Pine chance off bottom we

FIRST SHOW

	C	H	L	9	T
Count Campioni	54	92	41	92	5-1
Tortoca	5-1	41	4-1	92	4-1
Back Do The Lash	51	6-1	11-2	11-2	6-1
Woodfield Gale	5-1	5-1	5-1	6 -1	11-2
Lephum	8-1	7-1	6-1	9-1	• 7-1
Santableus,	11-1	6-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Gatapiat Du Mesni	114-1	124	14-1	14-1	14-1
rebli _c o.	9-1	124	14-1	12-1	14-1
dberriebositan	(101	14-1	124	141	14-1
Storm Of Gold	14-1	16-1	14-1	14-1	24
Cation Kelds	20-1	20-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Rol De La Chasse	20-1	20-1	20-1	164	16-1

Sandown 4.05									
	C	H	Ļ	5	T				
Dr Jazz	11-4	3-1	11-4	34	114				
is Question	3-1	3-1	11-4	11-1	3-1				
Sk Talbot	5-1	11-2	11-2	<u>\$1</u>	51				
Regency Rates	7:1	B-1	9-1	9-1	8-1				
Alabang	10-1	11-1	11-1	114	114				
Coulthard	12-1	Q-1	10-1	14-1	10-1				
Effectual	14-1	291	14-1	14-1	12-1				
Tires For Action	14-1	24	14-1	14-1	141				
Road Racer	20-1	g .1	12-1	141	14-1				
Call My Guest	33-1	30-1	22/1	22-1	25-1				
Sementd	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1				
Sken Songs	<u>ئة</u> -1	25-1	33-1	31	35-1				

Horse	C	H	L	S	
Nomena 14r Niceg.	112	11-2	41	11-2	5
Jay-Cree-Text	11-2	5-1	11-2	6-1	11
Silca Henlor	11-2	6-1	74	13-2	Ø
Weeknan's Weigh	71	13-2	6-1 -	64	6
Welville	61	13-2	74	13-2	7
Ceptaha Scott	0.2	81	19-1	6.1	7
kalian Symphony	11-1	14-1	10-1	12-1	1
Raheea	14-1	14-1	12-1	14-1	14
Nigrasine	16-1	16-1	18-1	161	21
Suglach	20-1	16-1	15-1	16-1	۲
Jeliciah Holle	20-1	14-1	16-1	20-1	1
Tiophora	20-1	16-1	16-1	20-1	1
Colontial Key	25:1	20-1	20-1	16-1	3

San	dov	m 4	.40	
	C	H	S	7
Percy Senolet	Z-1	18-1	20-1	20-1
Lively Knight	12-1	9-1	8-1	9-1
Otokovinup	7-2	7:2	41	10-3
Arier Mole	11-2	8-5	8-1	5-1
Billygrout Godf	20-1	33-1	10-1	25-1
Moutein Path	5-2	11-4	31	11-4
Sharp Command	92	92	92	5-1
Native Player	15	41	41	41
Latte Flowley	150-1	300-1	50-1	100-1

RESULTS

Goner, Good to Soft, Soft in places 2.10: 1. PLENTY COURAGE (8 Storey) 0-1; 2. Sillymore 7-2; 3. Red Hot Indian 11-4 (av. 11 ran. ... 27 IF Storey). Rote: 5830; 2-20, £130, £140, DF: \$2360, \$55, £1338, 2-48: 1. FORREST TRIBE (8 Harding) 5-1, 2. Castle Clear 4-1 fav. 3. Joseolle 5-1 11 ran. 16, 11°; IM Hammond; Tote: £150, £260, £240, £200, DF: \$450, CSF: \$3142, Ahrr 1st race, going officially changed to Scf.

Sact-way, a quarter the courts, places 1, 2, 3

2280, £240 £200 DF; £1630 CSF; £3142 Albr 1st race, going officestly changed to Scht 3,20: 1, PMAR ECHO (W Dowing) 4-1, 2. Vipprano 3-1; 3. Aztec Flyer 9-4 fav 7 ran. 2, 7; (L Lungo). Tote: £650, £250 £250 DF. 4590 CSF; £247 9,55: 1, NJWAY (S Tavior) 50-1, 2. Weaver 11-8 fav Hartslecont (4th). 1,26 (M Barnes). Tote: £3100, £1010, £1010 DF; £3650 CSF. £2228 £12228 4.25: 1. HOWAYMAN (Atr K Anderson) 6-5 fev: 2. Strathmore Lodge 33-1: 3. Piper 4.25: 1, INJURATION (AT & ANGESON) 6-5 fax; 2, Strathmore Lodge 33-1; 3, Piper O'Drummond 4-1 9 fan. 1, T. (Ats & An-derson), Tote: £170, £170, £480, £130, . OF: £1780, CSF: £38.37 Non Purver: Spartan

5.00: 1. SAN FRANCISCO (S Taylor) 7-2 co tay, 2. Western General 7-2 Co Ser. Busby 7-2 co tay 7 ran. 1 114 (A Whitars) Total Caso; E200 S180 OF S1240 CSF CNITT Platepot: 68900 Quadpot: \$1050

HEREFORD Going. Good to Soft. Soft in places 1.50: 1. LADY FOR LIFE (J.A. McCarthy) 11-4; 2. Angus 3-4 lav; 3. Emphatic 65-1 14-ra. 10.1%, IR Philips, Sourshott, Total E350: E150, E140, CEDI DF: E340, CEF: E774 NFIs Charwell, Reflecting, 2.25: 1. SOL, MUSIC (A P McCay) 15-8, 2. Distant Echo 10-11 4x; 3. Jack 14-1, 4 ren. 7, 12 (J King Swindon) Tote: C250 DF: C201 CSF: C396 NR: Royal Rapport.

*THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS SANDOWN 971 981 972 982 973 983 WOLVERHAMPTON 974 984 ALL COURSES RESULTS

0891 261 970

3.00: 1. GUNNER BID (Mr H Ephgrave) B-1; 2. Analogical 18-1; 3. Jollytack 5-1; 13 ran. 7-4 law Breteche (4th) 1%, 3% (8 Preca. Tellorth, Tota: E70; E130 £420 £230 DF: £539 C.SF: £0298 3.30: 1. BHADIANN IJ A McCarthy) 2-1 for; 2. Tremendisto 5-1; 3. Ranger Sicame 7-2 8 ran. 8. % (P Marphy Bristol. Tota: £250 £200, £190, £150 DF: £740 CSF: £198. Treas: £5014 4.05: 1. SHADRACH (0 McPhad) 14-1; 2. Cool Spot 11-4, 3. Northern Saddler 7-1 9 ran. 7-4 kw Gratom (4th) 2. % (Mrs H Mobley, Brackley). Tota: £700: £230 £40, £190 DF: £361 CSF: £5166. Treast: £277.39. 4.40: 1. CHARMER'S WELL (Mr N Fehly) 9-4 kw, 2. Archer B-1, 3. Ransty Fellow B-1 10 ran. 3. dist. (Gary Brown, Upper Lambourn). Tota: £300: £170, £190, £160 DF: 1st or 2nd with any other £730 CSF: £158.

C1585 5.10: 1. WELBURN BOY (S Wyrne) 12-1; 2. Another Chencer 9-1; 3. Sparkfing Buck 8-1 12 ran. 1% 6 (M Shepperd Ledbury) Tota: C13.70; E230, E230, E270 DF, E5770 CSF, E00599 Tricast D85371 NF: Outbling Placepot: C40.30, Quadpot: £1650

SANDOWN Chases: Good to Soft, Good in places; Hurdles: Good to Soft, Soft in places 2.00: 1. COUNTRY STORE (R. Johnson) 3-1 Jt lav; 2. Knight's Crest 7-2; 3. Claymore Lad 16-1 10 ran. 3-1 Jt lav Garrison French I yam, 6.23 (M Poe. Weinigton) Role: (AU): C160, C190, C260 DF: C750, CSF: C1200, Tr-

CIGO C180 C280 DF: C750 CSF: C1200 Tr-cast C12505 2.35: 1. RUSSELL ROAD (R Johnson) 4-5 fav. 2. High Game (2-1; 3. Native King 5-c. 19 ran. 1. 7 (D Nicholson, Temple Gut-ing) Tota: E20: E10: E120, C130 DF: C1140 CSF: C1230. NR: My Glendalough 3.10: 1. COURT MELLODY (NO Alers-Han-ley) B-1.2. Drutid's Brook B-1: 3. English key) 8-1, 2. Druid's Brook 8-1; 3. Ensign Ewart 20-1 14 ran. 5-2 lav Symbol of Suc-cess (left) 3. dist. (P. Nicholis). Tote: £7:0; £2:20, £1:70, £10:70. Dual Forecast: £2040. CSF: C3916. 3.45; 1. EQUITY'S DARLING (M Barchelor)

9-1; 2. Whitechapel 5-1; 3. Imad 8-1 19 ran. 9-2 tax Master Generosity. 7, 5, (D O'Brien, Tombridge), Total £850, £210, £220, £230 DF: £2800 CSF: £4921 Tricast: £34548, Tota Trifecta: (2745). 4.15: 1. EXTRA STOUT (Mr J Nicholi) 100-3.7.2. Streen of Mar 11-8 lay 2. Mischlef Star 16-1 5 rsn. 5. \(\tilde{\ 2-1 fav Estate Agent (5th), 1%, ng. (J. Gritord) Findont Tote: £2360; £640, £250, £180, DF 16800 CSF. \$10841 Jeckpot: £7,0000 part won. Pool of £55 carned forward to Sandown today. Placepot: £23140. Quadpot: £18.50 pot: £770000 part won. Pool of£812884

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION 1.40 Mike's Double 2.10 Rouge 2.40 Bold Effort

3.50 Kosevo 4.25 Weetman's Welgh 5.00 Keen Hands 3.15 Weet-A-Minute GOING: Standard. STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low to middle best for 7t.

III Foresard, in the Trans, over course.

Course is N of flown on A448 Wolverhampton station tm. ADMISSION: Cub £15;
Tettersaits £8 [£2] off for OAP members of Diamond Cub); Restaurant peckage prices
£1750 to £3595 including course entrance and meat. CAR PARK: free.

LEADING THAINERS: R Hollinsheed — 70 winners from 586 runners gives a success ratio of 715%; N Littmoden 52 from 384 (\$35%); M Johnston 47 from 245 (\$82%); loNinaheed --- 70 winners from 586 runners gives a suc-len 52 from 384 (13.5%); M Johnston 47 from 245 (19.2%);

P Evans 41 from 412 (10%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: 5 Senders 43 wins from 311 rides gives a success ratio of 13.8%; Dean McKeewn 38 from 310 (12.3%); J Weaver 38 from 203 (17.7%); O Holland FAVOURITES: 486 wins in 1510 races (32.2%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ladvouke, Planetor 500.

==		
1	.40	BERNARD'S HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,750 added 7f Penalty Value £2,068
1	-23601	LIVE PROJECT (12) (D) (Mrs G Quint) R Craggs 7 16 3
2	3-4211	GARNOCK VALLEY (16) (C) (D) (R ARD) J Borry 9 9 11
۱ <u>۵</u>	040-23	GADGE (12) (D) (J) B Wilcox) A Belley (1) 7
4	0-1000	MISS DANGEROUS (25) (C) (D) (M Quirt) M Quirt 4 9 10 F Notion 12
5	1-3020	MIKE'S DOUBLE (15) (CO) (The Posse) Mrs N Macauley 5 9 8 R Price 9 V
6	0-2542	HOMESTEAD (25) (D) (G H Shoamark) R Hannon 5 8 3 L Newmon (7) 5
7		STATISTICIAN (5) (D) (R Sms) John Berry 7 9 1
8	-04330	STRAYSEA (7) (E Bernion) 8 Baugh 4 8 12
	560-32	RIVER ENSIGN (19) (Crepandare Associates) W Braboume 8 0 8 P Bradley (7) 4
10	-04502	NOBLE PATRICT (7) (Four Dreamers) R Hollinshead 4 8 7 P M Quiten (7) 19
Ħ	00-020	BICTON PARK (7) (Old Style Partnership) K Comerland 5 80 T Williams 11
12	4-0200	TACHYCARDIA (16) (C) (Lancing Record) N Berry 7 8 5
ac.	TIME: 7.	Corner's Valley R. (Lee Grotert Vermetant 7.1 Dans Erwine 6.1 Carles Miss

erous, Robie Patriot, 10-1 others FORM VERDICT

Not a race for lumpy investments. Statistician has run well enough this year to suggest he should give supporters a good run for their money even if he was flattered by his effort against the in-form Garnock Valley in a Lingfield claimer last month. But perhaps this is the time for MIKES DOUBLE to bounce back to form after folling in slightly better company at Southwell lest time. He is only 4lb higher than when witning here at the end of lest year.

2.10 VICTORIA MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £3,750 added 1m 100yds Penalty Valme £2,787 — 19 declared — SETTING: 9-4 Bridel White, 11-4 Rouge, 7-2 Forty Forte, 7-1 Manne-Sex, 9-1 Gevity, 20-1 Adors's Orwann, i Spy, Pikepinelle, 33-1 others 1998: Desert Mirage 3 6 6 O Hollund 100-30 (P Chapple-Hyami) drawn (11) 13 ran

This looks a decart opportunity for ROUGE to score a deserved success and she can make her expenence of Fitnesand tell against the likes of Bridel White, Forty Forte and the Kieren Fallon-partnered newcomer Manne-San. 2.40 NEW SOUTH WALES HANDICAP (CLASS C) £12,000 added 8f Penalty Value £8,364 000-14 SOLD EFFORT (10) (CD) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 7 to 0 .R Codesena 9 B black end white (helved horizontally), check cap 243456 CLASSY CLEO (10) (D) (J E Abbey) P Evans 4 9 13... yellow, royel blue disc and sleeves, hooped cap 04500- KING OF PERU (184) (0) (M C S O Racing) N Literaden 8 9 2 ... T G MeLeighlin 2

FORM VERDICT

BETTING: 11-4 Magic Parinton, 7-2 Mularrab, 9-2 Bold Effort, 6-1 Octor, 6-1 John Bowder Music, Branston Berry, 18-1 Classy Clan, Pipe Song, 12-1 King Of Pani, 14-1 others 1968 Cetan Gift 7 9 12 J Wayer 8-1 (N Littmoden) drawn [13] 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

Bold Effort: Found 71 here too far when 4th to Flying Officer last time. Won well pre-viously by 4 lengths from Mukamab under 10st at Lingfield (8t), 10th higher loday Classry Cleo: Last of 0 to Flying Officer here (7t) last time. Exposed in handicaps ear-Clearly Cerci. Lists of the rhysio Critical most (v) less that captered in heroccupe sear-fer on this course and a low drawn thay count against her today. King Of Penic Heshit won since Goodwood 1996 and without a run since Septem-ber, 3rd to Five Of Spedes over C&D on latest AW run. Low draw against him. Meggic Rainbow: First run since October and well backed to best Krystal Max and

on Berry: Catterick winner in soft ground lest yeer. 4th to Pleesure at Doncaster

Octoor: Best turi form over 6f and beaten on last 3 starts in yearler races over 6f. Favourite Chaige: Best but commover of and bearen on least 3 states in vessiver races over 6t Pavourile at Southwest five days ago when 3rd to Malibamia
Plips Song: Malden witner here and slowly away on comeback run. Subsequently only 6th of 1t to Italian Symphony over 7 here. Peturn to 6f will sust. Johin Bowdrier Musel: Gets 1th put for neck beging by Mukarrato at Lingfield and about 3 longths behind Ocker when 6th to Malibamia at Southwell five days ago

Time To Fly: Rattled off hal-trick (two wins here) in January last year. Kept on when 4th to Dil at Southweil (5f) on Wechesday and better at this trip Indian alizzar: Beat Villege Native over 7f on last visit here. Slowly zway when lest of 12 to Maileamie at Southweil five days ago. Good apprentice booked

of being as effective on this surface having scored at Southwell. Mitcharraib wee no metch for Michael Beits charge at Lingfleid and he was also left standing by BOLD EFFORT on the same track less months Bold Effort reverts to 8f after a deleat over further and the respective form lines through Mukarraib gives him the edge.

3.15 WESTERN AUSTRALIA STAKES (CLASS D) £5,250 added 1m 1f 79yds Penalty Value £3,614 CHINA CASTLE (17) (C) (J M Davis) P Hastam 8 B 13......

FORM VERDICT The weights tayour West-A-Milmute if he shows the form that has seen him successful twice over course and distance during the winter season. But he has never been that straightforward and DIAMOND WHITE, who had him well behind when second in a Listed event here last November, is preferred. China Castle is likely to find the trip too sharp but still looks best of the remainder.

3.50 BERNARD'S HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,750 edded 7f Penalty Value £2,068 BETTING: 7-2 Mutabari, 11-2 Koenvo, 13-2 Village Hative, Approachable, Kase Alhems, 7-1 Abtael, 8-1 Square Mile Mikes, Ring The Chief, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT Today's course and distance brought out the best in APPROACHABLE last week when he overcame trouble in running to win going away and this lightly-raced 4-year-old can follow up. There was improvement lest time too from Mutabert so he should be respected, but Kosevo and Kasa Akhawa invariably seem to find one or two

4.25 ED WEETMAN LINCOLN THIAL HANDICAP (B) C4 turquiste, burgundy hooped aleeves, gold cep

anguiste, burgundy hooped aleeves, gold cep

according to the control of the con

Mulearab at Lingfield. Reised 12th and now on slower surface Mulearab: Effective at Lingfield (caught by Royal Cescade here last month). Game winner from Helf Tone and from John Bowdler Music 2 days later, 8th better with Magic

on latest start and 14th better for 2 length AW beating by Maglo Rainbow Night Flight: Dual turf winner over 6f and unplaced to Styfeh Weys at Heydock on latest start. Maless dobut on AW and has low down to overcome. Juwwit: Craditable runs on AW but faces stiff task with a little known apprentice

VERDICT: Magic Rainbow gained an impressive win at Lingfield and has every hope

better for latest 6 length beating. Has won over 71 at Southwell Silica Blankic Well backed when badly drawn and 10th to Threadneedle at Lingfield. Reversed the form when scoring a fortnight later. Only 3to higher but over further Capitain Scott: Southwell melden winner two years ago and creditable turt runs in decent handicaps last term. Fine chance on latest 6th to Porto Foricos at York Celestial Kay: Formerly useful over 7t and 1m. Won an the send 0 years ago and stiff task here last time in November when 8th to Refuse To Lose Sualtach: 3rd to Woot-A-Minute here last time. Six times winner on the course but prob ably not good enough in this higher grade
Taillutah Biollie: 3-longh th this higher grade
Taillutah Biollie: 3-longh than to progressive Thekryaab on Last visit here and stiff tesk
at Lingdeld last time when 5th of 6 to Pas de Memoires (Refuse To Lose 2nd)

BETTING: 7-4 Woot-A-Minute, 2-1 Chine Cautie, 11-2 Diamond White, 10-1 Kheled, 12-1 Graf-Reaco, The Wild Wildow, 18-1 Yalameen 1896: Diemond Flame 4 9 0 C Lowther (3) 13-8 fav (P Hame) drawn (4) 7 ran

VERDICT: Nomore Mr Niceguy responds well to Kloren Fallon's pushing end he looks sure to play a prominent part after finishing second in the race last year. Tony Newcombe trained the winner 12 months ago and he goes with the useful saint performer Silca Blantac. Capitain Societ could be a sinp at the weights on his sixth to Porto Foricos at York but the vote goes to WELVILLE, who is in fine heart after two wins at Lindfield and who promises to act on this slower surface having won in soft

5.00 NORTHERN TERRITORY WOLVERHAMPTON SELLING STAKES (G) £2,500 3YO 5f Penalty Value £1,856

poter, 8-1 Keen Hands, Loughenien, Ledy Carbron, 19-1 others 1998. Risky Whisky 5 8 4 O Carler 11-2 (J Berry) drawn (4) 10 ran FORM VERDICT

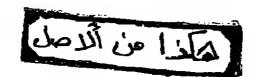
A good opportunity for AVONDALE GIRL to return to winning form - she won a seller at Yarmouth prior to a sound effort in a York nursery last summer

5.30 TASMANIA HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 2m 46yds Penalty Value £3,649

BETTING: 9-4 Far Cry, 3-1 Sudest, 5-1 Star Rage, 6-1 MacReno, 6-1 Toten, Dencer, 10-1 Nov terl, 12-1 Dargo, 25-1 Ctel De Reve 1998: Nouter 7 9 4 A McCarthy (5) 3-1 (R Hollinshead) drawn (5) 8 ren

FORM VERDICT

Several successful AW stayers in opposition, but it DARGO repeats the form he showed when running right away from the opposition three weeks ago he will be hard to beat. As the time was decent and that was his first by at the trip for a new yard, he looks worth following. For Cry, who probably tound Lingfield less suitable than Southwell but is still weighted to turn the tables on Ster Rege, and Sudept



Cricket: Humiliating defeat to Australia reflects a decline in the Caribbean game which is not yet conclusively terminal amplitude of trauma takes.



DEREK **PRINGLE**

WEST INDIES cricket is in crisis. The popular view, is that a vortex, largely of its own creation, is dragging it down to unplumbed depths of humiliation. Only last week, the Test team collapsed to 51 all out against Australia, the lowest score in its history. Rock bottom it seems, if not already reached, is perilously close at hand. It is a situation unthinkable five years ago, when their players, headed by a quartet of fast bowlers, still ruled the cricket world.

The current situation is serious and the cricket lovers in the Caribbean know it But instead of the expected sound of wailing and the mass gnashing of teeth, an eerie silence has descended. Losing a Test match is one thing, hut this, their sixth Test defeat in a row, has left many feeling too numb to express their anger. According to one journalist from the region: "It's as if the people would rather not think about it at

In some ways you can understand why wholesale criticism would be considered sacrilegious. Cricket, at least since the 1960's, has been the Caribbean's most famous export, Sure, rum, bananas and reggae also served to put the region on the map, but it was their cricketers, especially their uninhibited flair and athleticism, that first gave the region a recognisable face and flavour.

Now, with cricket bringing only despondency, it has been left largely to rum and bananas (though the latter has become an issue of contention with the United States) to leave the Caribbean's footprint in the world at large. Sadly, reggae and calypso, those most original and infectious of musics, have also been eroded by facsimiles of American hip hop. "Reggae gone rap, cricket gone to pot", is how a dub poet might have put it, the pun now sadly unintended.

Romans and Greeks may have dominated their rivals for longer, but in the 15 years from 1976 until 1991, world cricket had hut one

cline" and "fall," that are applied to the disintegration of replaced cricketers like Gary



Viv Richards (left), Jeff Dujon and Gordon Greenidge celebrate a wicket against England at Lord's in 1988; Brian Lara (right) after his dismissal in the second innings of the first Test against Australia Quite simply, there are no hig

great empires. Yet despite the Sobers and Viv Richards. My alarm hells, which the doom prophets insist have been ringing for some time, the fall, like walking over a precipice, has been sudden and severe. Perhaps the shock should

have brought about the kind of by those who were around durindiscriminate grieving that follows natural disasters, but that has not happened. Instead, it appears that the manner of the recent Test losses has largely failed to touch the younger generation, both here and in the Caribbean. So far. only the older generations of West Indians appear to be in a state of shock.

David Lawrence, an Eng-

land fast bowler of Jamaican heritage, believes the apathy amongst the young, at least in England, is due to distance. hoth real and imagined. Lawrence believes that for the West Indians whose parents impregnable empires, which strong connection with the remakes the gloom even harder for gion's cricket, so vital to its proud followers to accept. The people of his father's generation, has been more or less lost.

> sporting heroes," reckons Lawrence, who was himself horn in England. "Footballers

own hero was Michael Holding, which is why my run-up was quite as long as it was.

"There is pain over what is happening to West Indies, hut in England it's mainly being felt ing the glory days. I feel sad, but it's my dad who is really hurting at the moment." And what gloriously heady

days they were, not just for West Indians, but for cricket fans everywhere. One of the feats of great sporting teams is that they can transcend culture and race. With their uninhibited strokeplay and aggressive fast bowling, those great West Indies sides of the Seventies and Eightles rewrote the rules. Fortunately, inspiration was not just limited to those with geographical or historical attachments to the Caribbean. For hundreds of callow middle-class white dies were one of cricket's most were born in England, the youths like myself, an exciting new force had arrived and we were smitten.

Having grown up in Kenya, my first taste of West Indies "Kids now have a new set of cricket came in the Sixties and early Seventies, through squalls of static on the BBC World Service. Later, during the Normally it is the words "de- like Ian Wright, Dwight Yorke height of their powers, I was to a white boy to handle. get much closer, playing 11 Test matches against them for

England between 1984 and 1991. As a measure of just how good the West Indies were during that period, eight of those Tests ended in defeat, while only one Test - Headingley 1991 - resulted in victory. Remember, these were mostly England teams that contained Ian Botham, Bob Willis, David Gower and Graham Gooch, four of our greatest-ever Test. players. In American sportspeak, the West Indies were simply awesome.

In truth, the road to hero worship began much earlier. Too young to remember Sobers and Rohan Kanhai - apart from re-runs of that grainy blackand-white footage of Sobers marmalising Malcolm Nash for six successive sixes at Swansea - 1976 was when the big bang

catalyst, too, for those of us ob- and gold "tams" (balaclavas), sessed with sport rather than most of us had bought at the team's problems into sharp resafety pins, it was the dazzling gig. With nowhere to run, a lief. The only thing that has held flair of the West Indies touring side which stimulated us most. Little then did I realise the extent of the side effects, and soon I was to be surrounded by the whole cultural shebang, or at least those hits safe enough for

In the space of a few short months in that red-hot summer

telly, of course) Viv Richards and Michael Holding destroy England at The Oval, hut bought my first roots reggae alburns to boot. Boh Marley and the Wailers. Lee Perry and the Upsetters and U-Roy, could easily have come from another planet. That they came from Jamaica, the home of Lawrence Rowe as well as "Mr Whispering Death" himself, Michael Holding, gave them an instant cachet of cool. A year later. I saw Bob Marley perform live at the Rainbow in Finsbury Park, The glg, which co-incided with half-term as well as the England v Scotland football match at Wembley, felt exciting

Catching the tube back to a friend's house in north London, several drunken Scottish fans Although punk served as a took exception to the red, green punch-up ensued and with together the concept of West In-bloodied noses, our new badges dies as a place, has been crickof allegiance were meekly sur- et. Now with the old enemies rendered to pagan hordes mak- like the West Indies Cricket ing their way to some twilight Board - until recently a disworld obviously untouched by parate body run mainly hy Viv or Bob.

and subversive.

their powers was just as con-

Africa spent most of this sec-

ond day in pursuit of New

Zealand's paltry 168 and when

at last they overtook that score,

they proceeded at the same

miserly rate and ended the

day only 61 runs to the good,

can call him that, was Herschelle

Gibbs who took 383 minutes of

hard labour to get to his maid-

en Test century. The redeeming

feature may be that having

achieved that landmark, his pre-

vious highest score was 54, he

will show what he is made of.

pretty ordinary. Simon Doull,

New Zealand's attack was

The principal culprit, if one

but with one wicket down.

I had not only watched (on frontational. Honed to a strict professionalism under Clive Lloyd, the team, with its overkill in the fast bowling department, became even more motivated when Richards assumed the captaincy in 1985.

Proud of his Afro-Caribbean heritage, Richards politicised the fact through his cricket. Arguably the greatest of post-war batsmen, Richards showed his fellow Antiguans, as well as the West Indies at large, that playing second fiddle in what many chose to see as a white-dominated world, did not have to be. When you bowled at Richards, you knew you were about to he saulted and that it was indeed personal. If it was his day, and nevitably it was, humiliation, the worst thing for a sportsman, was virtually guaranteed.

Ironically, it is probably the whites - suddenly agreeing to Mind you, playing against the players' demands, the political West Indies at the height of edge, prevalent under fights to be fought anymore. Professor Hilary Beckles, an

eminent figure at the University of the West Indies in Barbados, feels that it is the cult of the individual that now rules in the Caribbean, Indeed, he likens the recent sides to bands of wandering minstrels, foraging for themselves rather than pulling together as a single, unified force. It does not end there, and for players also read islands and administrators, which is why the bickering and rivalries, never far away even in Lloyd's time, have once more resurfaced. Mind you, perhaps those of

us who wish to analyse these things should approach the problem from another angle. Inthe present malaise, perhaps

There is another factor, and . that is the role played by county cricket: Much maligned re- a Test series against them cently, county cricket played a vital part in moulding the key West Indies players of the golden era. Nowadays, limited to just one overseas player per county trather than the two that prevailed in the Seventies and Eighties) the clubs want an es- sidered terminal.

tablished star rather than a youngster with promise.
Improbable though it seems

Lloyd, Richards, Joel Garner, Malcolm Marshall, Gordon Greenidge and Andy Roberts all owe a huge debt to county cricket. Apart from giving them regular cricket, the system brought both discipline and professionalism to their natural gifts, things glaringly lacking in Brian Lara's side. Of course, people say there is little infrastructure in most parts of the Caribbean, but that has always been the case. With county cricket offering a ready home in the past, there has never needed to be.

Watching them succumh so meekly against Australia, admittedly on a poor pitch, was to . stead of seeking explanations of see a familiar face made unrecognisable by some awful Ironically, it is probably the we should be marvelling at trauma. Yet before we, in strength of these two characters what a miracle it was to have safe European homes, all said ters that has thrown the current produced such great sides in our condolences and prepare to small point should be remembered - England have not won

since 1969. Whatever anguish Australia are able to inflict over the next few weeks, the second Test starts today in Kingston, it is only when they lose to England, that the malaise will be con-

Hooper targets third Test

CARL HOOPER will rejoin his BY MARIE MCINERNEY beleaguered West Indian teammates for the third Test against Australia after spending time with his family in Australia where his infant son is ill.

The all-rounder missed last week's humiliating 312-run de- sit here and watch the telly and leat in the first Test at Trinidad because of his son's illness. be there," he said. West Indies were dismissed for their lowest Test score of 51 as they suffered their sixth successive Test defeat.

dies vice-captain, was not available for the second Test, starting in Jamaica today, but be will travel to the Caribbean tomorrow to prepare for the third Test, which begins in Barbados on 26 March. in Adelaide, Australia

"I don't want to desert a sinking ship," Hooper said. "If we are going to go down, I want to be a part of it. I don't want to watch us going down. I want to Hooper also said he would

consider taking on the West Indies captaincy if the selectors offered him the job but be said Hooper, formerly West In- he was happy to pledge his support to the captain, Brian Lara, Hooper also served as Lara's deputy on the recent tour of South Africa, where West Indies lost the Test series 5-0. Hooper said Lara's strength

of character would determine whether he could withstand continuing criticism and speculation over his captaincy.

"It depends on how strong Brian is. Sometimes you get into situations like this, it sometimes tests your character I'm 100 per cent behind Brian," be

Hooper pulled out of the first two matches of the four-Test series to stay in Adelaide with his Australian wife, Connie Tambakis, and their infant son, who is undergoing tests for an undisclosed medical condition.

He had intended to wait for the results of the most recent tests that his son's had undergone, but said he felt be had to

2.15 JOHN BROWN MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 3m 1f

- 9 declared -BETTING: evens Mike Stan, 9-4 Grain D'Setruval, 11-2 Thorntown House.

FORM VERDICT

MIKE STAN can take this despite the unemriable task of giv-ing so much weight away to the French import Grain (PEstru-val. The selection certainly stays this trip, his trainer is in for has a good course record and ran his best race last time out.

2.45 STHACHAN KERR NOVICE HANDI-CAP HURDLE (D) 25,000 3m 110yds

7-1 Adventurus, 10-1 Turkish Towar, 33-1 others

his cricketing future or risk missing the whole series.

He said that if things took a turn for the worse here "the board has more or less assured me that they will allow me to come back". "But I think it's a time also

where West Indies cricket can ill afford to be without some of their main players and I just think I've got to bite the bullet and go."

Hooper said earlier this week he had felt "torn in two" watching on television as West Indies collapsed to their worst Test match total at Port-of-Spain, and he clearly felt that he had to make a quick decision.

Gibbs takes time to blossom I HAVE seldom watched a more BY HENRY BLOFELD bloodless day's cricket. South

New Zealand 168 South Africa 229-1

who had strained an ankle on Thursday, was able to bowl but Australia, attempting almost of Test match. was perhaps too careful not to nothing on an orderly pitch. aggravate the injury.
The others were journey-

men. Geoff Allott, left arm over the wicket, was at best steady; Dion Nash has neither the pace nor the swing he once showed. Daniel Vettori, the left-arm spinner, bowled a tidy length but lacks any sort of guile, while Chris Harris and Nathan Astle are medium-pace dobbers. The South Africans like to

in Christchurch

Richards, has been removed.

They put on 127 for the first wicket in 52 overs before Gibbs gave himself away when be straight drove Vettori for six and, soon after lunch, Kirsten swept at Vettori and was caught

progress. It will serve them

right if a doubtful weather fore-

cast wins the day. Gary Kirsten

and Gibbs batted for an un-

day's only wicket. Jacques Kallis began with a flurry of strokes but soon disappeared back into his shell.

The rest of an interminable day

The rest of an interminable day

M Guested (New Zealand).

at midwicket. Thus fell the

him to a hundred he had faced conscionable time, as if facing 268 balls. It has been that sort

spent 39 minutes in the 80s minutes in the 90s and when a

lovely cover drive off Allott took

Extras (6tb 4nb) 10
Rotal (for 1, 101 overs) 229
Fall of wickets: 1-127
To bas: 0 1 Cullinan, "W 1 Cronle, J N Rhodes, S M Pollock, (M V Bouchet, L Klusener, P R Adams, A A Donald, Bowling: 5 B Doull 19.5-7.26-0; G I Mott 25-7-70-0; D 1 Nash 17-5-38-0; N 1-858 5.1-1-12-0; O L Vettori 21-5-62-1; G R Stead 1-0-1-0; C Z Harris 12-6-14-0. Ummirres: K T Francis (Sri 1-ank) and 0

AYR

HYPERION

1.45 Cinder Hills 2.15 Cross The Rubicon 2.45 Vallgan (nb) 3.20 Major Bell 3.55 Ingletonian 4.30 Prince Of Saints 5.05 Lord Sandrovitch

GOING: Soft

Eleft-hand galloping course.

Course & E of town on A758. Ayr station im. ADMISSION:
Club Ste, Grandstand ET (QAPS half-pine) CAR PARK; Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

ELEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveloy 26-43 (182%), L Lungo
23-176 (331%) J O'Noll 20:24 (51%), P Montakin 9-39 (25%)

ELEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 39-37 (209%), & Storey 25-164

(155%), P Niven 9-122 (155%), R Supple 17-85 (175%),

IN FAVOURITES: 161-42 (331%)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

1.45 SPRING IN AYRSHIRE NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m

FORM VERDICT MAJOR BALLABY is the form pick and can see off Cinder Hills. Having improved to run second to a former Listed win-ner on the Flat in a 23-runner race last time. Major Ballaby

races in a less competitive contest this time. A reproduction of that last time out form will make him hard to beat.

- 6 declared -Monamum weight: 10st Two montess weight: Porter Packly 8st 9th. BETTING: 2-1 Valigan, 11-4 Thanks Kelin, 4-1 Mr Mandle, Polar King, 5-1 Kingannie, 50-1 Porter Packly

FORM VERDICT MR MAHDLO'S latest form has worked out particularly well and the lact that his conqueror, Jowoody, was able to dely a 9b rise with plenty to spare at Newcastle next time suggests that he may be able to dely a hile in the weights. He can take his revenge on old must Valigan, despite unlavourable terms. 3.20 HAMILTON CAMPBELL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £7,000 3m 1f

- 3 departum weight: 10st True handkap weight: Bright Descrip Sit Stb. BETTING: 5-4 Major Boll, 2-1 Better Times Aboad, Bright Destiny FORM VERDICT

BETTER TIMES AHEAD, who did nothing wrong in detect by this week's winner The Next Weltz at Carlisie last time, is awarded a narrow vote over Major Ball but the latter is still potentially well handicapped and this is no great betting heat.

nght Deatiny has it all to do at the weights but is running well

3.55 AYRSHIRE YEOMANRY CUP HANDI-CAP HURDLE (CLASS C) \$4,000 2m 4f

P32-46 INGLETONIAN (105) (CID) 8 Macaggart 10 to 0 ... 2 Storey 13833 VALEDICTORY (19) (D) P Monteon 8 11 7 C McCommeck (3) 313114 HUNTING SLANE (57) (D) (BF) C Grant 7 to 15......A Supple -24534 GOSPEL SONG (25) (C) A Writers 7 to 8N Horrocks (5) 07-10 MARY'S FEEL PKGS (88) M Hermand 8 10 3 B Harding 232351 EXALTED (38) (CD) T Cumbert 8 10 1 K Johnson

 8 declared BETTING: 3-1 Exalted, 7-2 Mary's Feelings, 9-2 Gospet Song, Harting
Stans, 7-1 Valedictory, Justin Mac, 10-1 Ingletonian, Executive Design FORM VERDICT

An improved performer this winter, HUNTING SLANE is thety to be better for a break and resumes on a fair mark. He is ant than Valedictory, who may reserve his best 4.30 HUGH BARCLAY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m

FORM VERDICT

The conditions of this race suit ligst year's winner MONTRAVE and he has dropped to a decant mark. He has not been running badly on ground soft enough and can bounce back. Uncle Bert could pose the biggest problem.

5.05 LOCH DOON STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,750 2m GROUSE HALL G M Moore 5 11 4

- 6 declared -SETTING: 7-4 Regal Island, 5-2 Just Tom, 11-4 Select Equiname, 5-1 Lord Sandrovitch, 25-1 Groupe Hall, 33-1 Stormy Fable FORM VERDICT

concentrate on here are the only two with form The ones to concentrate on nere are the cirty two with non-JUST TOM has only had one outing and can be expected to Improve considerably on that, seeing as his yard is only just emerging from a barren speil. Regal latent should give him most to do. Lord Sandrovitch is an interesting newcome.

Meissnitzer double as snow hits super-G

win and this probably justified, was spent watching Gibbs

for them, their depressing negotiate that first hundred He

IN THE end Alexandra Meissnitzer did not have to move a muscle to become the first competition which ends today. Austrian to win the women's Meissnitzer has won four of the super-giant slalom World Cup.

The weather that had proved so fickle forced the organisers to cancelled the final race of the season yesterday. Too much snow on parts of the course in the Sierra Nevada mountains of southern Spain. after three postponements on Thursday, meant that Meissnitzer acquired her second World Cup title without a con-

She had already claimed the overall crown before arriving in Spain and looks sure to finish supreme in the giant slalom

SKIING

eight giant slaloms so far and only the veteran Austrian Anita Wachter has any chance of overhauling her.

Few could complain that Meissnitzer was not a worthy champion, despite the fact that the super-G series ended in articlimax. She won only twice in eight races, but was never out of the top 15. Her only super G character to the lenger before Spain was compatriot Michaela Dorfmeister but only a disaster could have changed the outcome.

Super G standings, Digest, page 27

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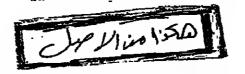
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Sampson set to take lead role in Cup

YOU HAVE to go back to 1983 for the last time that no side from within the old boundaries of Lancashire appeared in the Challenge Cup semi-finals. It lies somewhere between possible and probable that there will be none this year either.

Salford, having done well to beat holders Sheffield and a revitalised Huddersfield in previous rounds, will beg to differ at Castleford today, but they have suffered a major blow with the loss of the creative Australian forward Darren Brown with a broken thumb.

An unchanged Castleford, on other hand, have Dean Sampson cleared to play despite being sent off against Wakefield last week. That is good news for them and also for a camera crew which is turning Sampson into a film star, following his every move for a documentary on the club. Castleford could yet give them some memorable footage in

this competition. Warrington have already looked a vastly improved side in Cup and Super League victories over Halifax, a fact recog-

RUGBY LEAGUE

By DAVE HADFIELD

nised by Matthew Elliott, the coach of tomorrow's opponents, Bradford: "They will be coming here full of confidence, on the back of a couple of victories over a high quality team." But Warrington could be

without their in-form full-back, Lee Penny - another thumb injury victim - and Bradford have the Paul hrothers, Henry and Robbie, starting to spark off each other and, apart from a fitness test on Steve McNamara, a fully fit squad - a luxury they never enjoyed last year.

In 1983, Widnes would have been Lancashire's best hope in the Cup. They are arguably on their way back up after the decline of the Nineties and they now have the ground their outstanding teams of the past de-served, but it is hard to imagine them detaining the remorseless Leeds side for long.

Widnes have Jason Critchley Cup-tied, Gareth Adams inpended, but their influential

cleared to play, while Leeds have doubts about Richie Blackmore, Marcus St Hilaire, Marc Glanville and Adrian Morley. Anthony Farrell is definitely out and David Wrench becomes the latest of their outstanding Academy side to be called up.

Kevin Tamati was a cornerstone of Widnes packs of the early Eighties but, as the coach of Whitehaven, will be wishing that the Cup had been kinder to him this time. The London Broncos would not have relished a trip to West Cumbria and a home draw would have given Haven a real chance.

At The Stoop, and even without the suspended Peter Gill, who is replaced by Robbie Simpson, London will surely reach the semi-finals for the second year running. This time, the League, with all due respect to their opponents, should be already making plans to stage their semi in the Midlands; sadly, there appears to be no intention of doing any such thing. jured and Chris Percival sus- which smacks of another missed opportunity.

Flights of fancy smashed down Teenager

Peter Gade Christensen of Denmark (foreground) takes control against Indonesia's Johan Hadikusuma during his straight-sets 17-15 15-8 quarter-final victory at the All England Badminton Championships in Birmingham yesterday David Ashdown

who finished second behind

Colin Montgomerie in the Volvo

PGA Championship last year.

two days and that's right up my

street. I've been putting really

nicely, saving par a few times

with good seven or eight foot-

Sweden's Fredrik Lindgren

ended with a flourish for a 66

with an eagle-par-birdie finish

for a total of 133 while

Nuneaton's Steve Webster was

two shots behind after a second-

Spain's Ignacio Garrido, a

member of Europe's victorious

1997 Ryder Cup team, fired a new course record 63, beating

the previous mark by two shots,

with a round that contained 11

birdies, just one less than the

Garrido, who had a first-

round 73, said: "I didn't play that

European Tour record.

"I've only had one bogey in

Four Scots fight it out

plied the finishing touches to a Scottish success story at the China International in Shanghai yesterday when he defeated Paul Davies 5-2 to complete a unique Scottish monopoly on semi-final places in the worldranking tournament at the Mandarin Hotel.

"This is superb - a momentous day for snooker in Scotland," declared the world champion, who will now face Alan McManus in one semifinal today while Stephen Hendry and Billy Snaddon meet in the other.

"Before Stephen came on the scene in the late 1980s it would have been something Recial for one Scot to be in the mi-finals of a tournament. Now we've got all four, it's hrilliant, said Higgins.

"I was under a little bit of pressure out there because 1 was the last leg of the four-timer and it was on my mind. Now, though, I'm really looking forward to the weekend."

In the past only England have managed to occupy all four semi-final berths in a major competition.

Trailing only 3-2 after grittiwinning frame five, the world No 41 Davies - who caused an upset by ousting Mark Williams in the last 16 - had the chance to extend his giantkilling se-

But Higgins clicked up a ar, producing a 112 clearance the sixth frame before smoothly taking the match with a hreak of 86 after Davies had missed a straightforward red.

"It wasn't a good game and if Paul had taken his opportunities 1 could well have struggled," admitted Higgins, who hopes to avenge his 5-4 quarterfinal defeat by McManus at last week's Thailand Masters.

"I suppose 1 owe Alan one after what he did to me in Bangkok, but whatever happens it's now guaranteed that a Scottish name will be engraved on that Cup and that's

Hendry and Snaddon have practiced together on a regular basis at Spencer's Snooker Centre, Stirling, since the latter turned professional in 1991 but have never met in compe-

"I'm particularly happy for Billy because he's making his debut in a semi-final," added

Bid cities

OLYMPIC GAMES

'mistake'

THE PRESIDENT of the International Olympic International Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, yesterday admitted that be should have acted earlier to curb corruption in Olympic bidding.

Samaranch still claims that the Salt Lake City bribery scandal has been overblown and that the 10C shares only part of the hlame. However, he added: "I don't deny it's serious, despicahle in certain aspects, but it all amounts to a total of around \$1m in gifts, scholarships, trips for wives. Look at the European Union scandal. That involves

around \$1 billion. "I'm guilty of one mistake: underestimating everything that was going on around all the bid cities. I should have realised earlier that the system for selecting host cities had to be

BY JOHN ROBERTS Chester, jointly ranked No 26 in Britain and No L107 in the world with four other players, will take his place alongside

Hilton in

cup call

from Mickle Trafford, near

Tim Henman and Greg Rused-

ski in the Davis Cup squad for first round of the World Group against the United States in Birmingham at Easter. Although Hilton's prospects of a place in the team rest on a catastrophic set of circumstances - injury or illness striking Henman, Rusedski, Neil Broad and Scotland's Miles Maclagan - his inclusion is recognition for a spirited performance at last year's National Championships in the

29-year-old Danny Sapsford, ranked No 526. David Lloyd, Britain's captain, had been tempted to include Andrew Richardson, who did a splendid job when injuries ruled Henman and Rusedski out of the tie against Zimbabwe at Crystal Palace in 1997, but the tall left-hander from Lincolnshire ruined his chances by refusing a wild card for last month's Guardian Direct Cup at Battersea because be did

absence of the Big Two. Hilton's

encouraging run at Telford was

ended in the final, when the

diminutive left-hander was

comfortably defeated by the

not consider he merited it. The bonus for Lloyd at Battersea was the spectacle of, Henman and Rusedski winning their first ATP Tour douhles title together, though this could not disguise the captain's

concern about the lack of reinforcements as Britain prepare to make a serious challenge for the trophy, having last reached the final in 1978 when Lloyd and his brother David were in the team beaten by the United States in California. "The gap is getting wider and wider. the captain said. "It's a worry when you have got two superstars and nothing else."

Lloyd plans to pick Henman and Rusedski for singles and doubles. This depends how they feel after the two opening singles matches oo the the first of the three days at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena. Should either need a rest, Broad will step in for the Saturday doubles.

Broad, 32, partnered Henman when Britain won the silver medal for doubles at the 1996 Atlants Olympic Games. They were defeated by the Australian doubles specialists Mark Wood-forde and Todd Woodbridge. Broad also partnered Henman against India last September The British pair lost, but Henman and Rusedski secured victory in the reverse singles.

Maclagan, 24, has been un-able to fulfil the promise be showed as a junior but can be an awkward opponent. Ranked No 5 in Britain and No 291 in the world, he has been selected ahead of Hampshire's Chris Wilkinson and Barry Cowan, of

Moya in battle with his mind

CARLOS MOYA remained in the By DERRICK WHYTE hunt for Pete Sampras' No 1 ranking by advancing to the quarter-finals of the Champions Cup here on Thursday. The fourth-seeded Spaniard, the only remaining survivor out of the handful who could have dethroned Sampras this week, had little trouble dispatching the Belgian teenager Xavier Malisse 6-4, 6-3 in the third

But the sixth seed, Marcelo nament en route to briefly overtaking Sampras last year, was overcome 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 by the 11th seed, Todd Martin.

Malisse had upset the threetimes Wimbledon runner-up Goran Ivanisevic in the previous round, but Moya's greatest challenge came from trying to keep his mind on the matter at hand and off how tantalisingly close the No 1 ranking has be-

соте. "It's always coming to my mind, even if I don't want it to," said Moya, the French Open champion, who needs only to reach this final to seize the top ranking. But I think I would be happy if every day it would happen the same, that I have this feeling if 1 win two match-

es, I'm number one." The Spaniard Felix Mantilla, who surprised Sampras in the second round to increase his compatriot's chances of ascending to the top, had little

time to enjoy his big win. A day after sending shock waves through the tournament Mantilla went out to the American qualifier Chris Woodruff

7-5, 7-5.

in Indian Wells, California

Woodruff earned a quarterfinal date for late last night with the seventh seed, Tim Henman, who showed his supremacy over fellow Briton and 10th seed, Greg Rusedski, with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 win.

Rios was playing his first tournament after several months off due to a back injury that still appears to hamper his able to win 58 per cent of his first serve points against Martin, who succeeded with 80 per . cent of his.

"I think 1 can play good maybe for a set, hut then 1 start getting a little bit tired. My back starts to pull me down a little bit," said Rios. "I think if I was serving better, 1 think I shouldn't have any problems to beat him in two sets."

Martin, who picked up a title in Sydney earlier this year, felt he deserved a little more credit for the outcome than Rios was willing to give him.

"I'm sure his back didn't feel great today, but 1 don't think 1 won the match because of his rustiness," said Martin, who earned a meeting with the Australian Mark Philippoussis, a 6-4, 6-3 third-round winner over the Russian Marat Safin. Steffi Graf, who showed im-

proved form as she came from behind to defeat the unseeded American Chanda Rubin 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 in Thursday's semifinal of the Evert Cup at the same venue, will face either Serena Williams or Sandrine Testud in today's final.

3: T Martin (US) bt M Rios (Chile) 4-6 6-2 6-2: K Kucera (Siovak) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6-4 3-6 6-4: C Woodruff (US) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 7-5 7-5: M Philippoussis (Aus) bt M Salin (Rus) 6-4 6-3. C Moya (Sp) bt X Malisse (Bel) 6-4 6-3.

EVERT CUP (Indian Wells, Ca) Women's singles Semi-finals: Graf bi Rubin 2-6 6-4 6-2.

DAMS CUP: Asia-Oceania Zone Group A: Mainsia bt Bangladesh 3-0; HK bt Syr-la 3-0. Group B: Tajikistan bt Pacific Ocea-

Lascelles up for Garbutt heeds advice 'biggest night'

Americans, Most Valuable of stats surrounding the poat the NEC, one player brings a truly unique quality to the game, writes Richard Taylor. The Derby Storm veteran I Jun Lascelles is the Budweis-

er League's All-Time Most Loyal Player, having made 385 appearances for that one club since his debut against Colchester in November 1984. Tonight the Storm face the overwhelming favourites Manchester Giants in the first final

in the club's history and in the 34-year-old Lascelles' 15-year career. This season bas already put him in the top 10 for league appearances and Lascelles said: "I have stuck with Derby through thick and thin and always had the aim of get- to play hard and go for it."

BASKETBALL

Player awards and the welter ting to at least one major final with the team. It's just unfortential mis-match at tonight's tunate that when we finally Uni-ball League Trophy Final made it the circumstances are the ones we find ourselves in

Unfortunate is an understatement. Derby face the league leaders without the American Rico Alderson and the England international Yorick Williams, banned following the brawl at Chester, while the 6ft 11in centre Nick Donovan has now been ruled out by a knee injury.

"The fans feel there is no justice and its frustrating because the city of Derby has waited a long time for a night like this," said Lascelles. "It's certain that no one expects us to win, but this is the biggest night in the club's history and we've got

IAN GARBUTT stormed into contention for his first Euro-

pean Tour title with a second 67 in yesterday's second round of the Turespaña Masters. The 26year-old from Doncaster had six birdies and dropped just one shot in near-perfect conditions over the Parador course.

Garbutt, whose 10-under 134 is his best two-round total on tour is one of the ever expanding group of players handled by the International Sport Management Group run by the former professional Chubby

He admitted to being inspired by the exploits of stablemates Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood. "There's a good feeling in the stable and it's good to see the other guys doing so well," said Garbutt, a former English Amateur champion. "Tve never really come close to winning a tournament, but I'm getting nearer and if I keep playing each weekend

GOLF BY PHIL CASEY

chance. I've gained some valuable experience over the last couple of years and Chubby

gives us plenty of advice." It was a piece of advice from coach Pete Cowen, bowever, that has proved the key this week, a putting tip beloing Gar-butt shoot four birdies in a row from the 14th, and his score would have been even better but for a putt that horseshoed

round the bole on the first. Garbutt and Gary Orr, wbo were among 12 players starting the day tied for second on five under, both fell victim to the parfour fifth for their only dropped shots of the day, but Orr was more than happy with his second 67.

"Normally I do have a few birdies but throw in a few silly mistakes as well," said the 31-I'm going to give myself a year-old from Helensburgh,

awful yesterday and 1 wasn't that good today but this is golf. I also shot 63 in the pro-am on Wednesday."

MOTOR RACING

MOTOR RACING

World motor sport's governing body decided yesterday to take no action against British American Racing in the controversy over the new Formula One team using two different liveries for its cars. Craig Pollock, the team's manager, had been summoned to answer allegations of bringing the sport into disrepute. However, Pollock told the hearing that his lawyers had acted without his instructions during the discussions. BAR have also agreed to redesign its cars. design its cars.

RUGBY UNION landers 46 Stormers 14.
SCOTLAND SQUAD (Hong Kong Seness burnament, March): N Penny (Nassonians). C Matther (Edinburgh Reivers). A Roaburgh (Edinburgh Reivers). S Lang (Edinburgh Reivers). S Lang (Edinburgh Reivers). Fabriery (Edinburgh Reivers). I Fabriery (Edinburgh Reivers). S Richad (Metrose). M DI Rollio (Watsonians). R Kerr (West of Scotland).

SKIING

S KTTM G
WORLD CUP (Sierra Nevada, Sp) Flaal
women's super-6 standlegs (Vesterday's
flad race concelled): 1 A Melssnitzer (Auc)
459: 2 M Dor melster (Aut) 373: 3 M Erti
(Ger) 340; 4 R Caregood (Fr) 335: 9 R
Goetschi (Aut) 309; 5 H Gerg (Ger) 300; 7
C Rey Bellet (Swit) 272: 2 P Wilberg (Swit)
262: 9 S Besthod (Swit) 232: 10 R Kaeusi
(Ger) 203: 11 C Mitterwalter (Austria) 188:
12 K Monahan (US) 163: 13 S Brauner (Ger)
160: 14 I Kostner (R) 152; 19 T Schneider

104.
WORLD CUP MEN'S NORDEC COM-BRIED EXERT Traism, 5me, Thursday; 1 1 kpg (C. Rep) 16min 54. Isse; 2 K Ogl-wara (Japan) 17:36.6; 3 H Manninen (Fin) 15:56.1; 4 B Engen Vik (Nor) 17:13.2; 5 Boerre Lundberg (Swe) 16:47.5, Standings; 1 Engen Vik 1,755pts; 2 Manninen 1,542; 2 F Gottwald (Aut) 996; 4 L Rygi (Cz Rep) 991; 5 S Lajunen (Fin) 986.

SKI JUMPING MYORLD CUP (Palun, Sine, Thursday) Larga hill: 1 M Schmitt (Ger) 261.4pts: 2 H Miyahira (Japan) 247.8; 9 M Harada (Japan) 247.7, Sandinger: 1 J Ahonen (Fin) 1,544pts; 2 Schmitt (,433; 3 K Funald (Japan) 1,363.

SNOOKER

CHMA INTERNATIONAL (Shanghal) Charter-finals: A McManus (Sco) bt K Doherty (ri) 5-4; J Higgins (Sco) bt P Davies (Wal) 5-2.

TENNIS

Jelena Dokic was yesterday named In the Australian Fed Cup team to play Austria next month. Dokkr, who made the third round of this year's Australian Open in her first Grand Stam appearance, was chosen along with Alicia Molik, Nicole Pract and Rennae Stubbs for the World Group

cian Wells, Calify Men's singles Thi round: T Herman (GB) Rusedski 6-4 6 6-4; Krajicek bt Slemerink 6-4 6-4;

TODAY'S NUMBER

38

the striker Ronaldo has played for Internazionale in the last two months. He has had chronic tendinitis in both knees.

BASKETBALL

Manchester Giants moved four points clear at the top of the Bud-wriser League on Thursday night af-sc Reading Greater London Leopards 108-101 at London Arena. 108-101 at London Arena.
The Los Angles Clippers, after failing to win in their first 17 contests of the season, narrowly avoided breaking the record for the longest NBA losing streak by winning a game on Thursday night. The Clippers finally put together a solid effort from start to finish for a 106-92 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

over the Sacramento Kings.

NEAs: Adanta 99 Boston 85; Miann 83
Joronto 73; New York 98 Washington 86;
Scattle 92 Chicago 83; Dallas 93 Orlando
76; Houston 102 Vancourer 91; Urah 94
Denvir 89; Golden State 89 Minnesota 82;
LA Clippers 106 Sacramento 92;
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Badwindsor Leaguer Greater London Leopards
101 Manchester Gants 108, Meet's Enrollangue Third leg: ASVEL Villeuthanne
[Fr) 74 Clipper 157 Pau Orthez [Fr] 64

BIATHLON

BIATHLON

INFORMATION (Oslo, Nor) Mem's 104 to
gerlant: "15 Fischer (Ger) Zemin 54.3 sec:
3. Hancvold (Nor) 2 femin 54.3 sec:
3. Hancvold (Nor) 2 femin 54.3 sec:
3. Hancvold (Nor) 2 femin 54.3 sec:
3. A October 1, 1, 2 to Malagourov (Rus) 27.4. 6 P.
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Sendel Ger) 27.6.7 P. Rossovasev (Rus) 27.4. 6 P.
Sendel Ger) 27.6.7 P. Rossovasev (Rus) 24.2.
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10. A Aldarov (Bela) 32.6 Missnew's
7.-Sikm speriatr 1.0 Zubrilova (Uur) 22mm
04.7 sec: 2 A E. Saletbreid (Nor) + 2.0 sec: 3
0 Peorosa (Bur) 4.6.4 6 Roudessa (Rus) 24.2.
3. K. Apel (Ger) 30.8: 6 U. Disi (Ger) 34.5. 7
A Secta (Pol) 43.9. 8 E. Hakona (C. Rep) 44.6.
9. 0 Romansko (Rus) 46.3: 10 E. Dalovska
(Bul) 56.2

Nick Knight, the Warwickshire opener, is to travel to South Africa nex Western Australia Inished a hand-ful of runs short of a guaranteed place in the Sheffield Shield final yes-terday. Victoria dismissed them for 258 – a first Innings deficit of five - to keep their own trophy hopes alive at the midway point of the four-day game in Melbourne. The hour-must win to prevent Western Aus-tralia from reaching their fourth suc-cessive final. Queensland await the victors.

CHAMPIONSHIP (Bournemouth): Pre-land bt Wales 111-108 (Insh skips first: D Corldi bt I Webley 23-10, I McClure lost to D Harding 13-19, 0 McCloy bt M Anstey 25-13. N Graham drew with R Weale 23-23. J Baker lost to J Price 15-18, H El-liott lost to J Greenslade 12-25).

ME INTERNATIONAL INDOOR

Arshad Khan, the Pakistan off-spinner, took 5 for 38 in only his third Test as Sri Lanka were dismissed for 231 on the opening day of the Asian Test Championship final in Dhaka yeterday. Arshad ran through the lower order by taking five of the last six wickets as injury-hit Sri Lanka struggled on the slow pitch at the Bangabandhu National Stadhum. Pakistan then reached 33 without loss in 10 overs before the close. First day, Sri Lanka wan toss

week at the request of the England selectors. The left-handed barsman will take part in his county's pre-season tour to confirm his recovery from a knee injury, ahead of England's one-day international tournament in Sharjah at the end of the month.

SPORTING DIGEST

traly's Mario Opollini, bruised but not subdued following a fall, sprinted to his fourth victory of the season in yesterday's third stage of the Tirreno-Adriatico race. Cipollini, one of the world's best sprinters who competes with the Saeco commercial team, edged out compatriots Stefano Zanini and Endrio Leoni at the finish following a 214km ride.

FOOTBALL US CUP 99 (Los Angeles): Mexico 2 (Sanchez 54, 60) Bolivia 1 (Ochoalzpur 4); USA 3 (Moore 22, McBride 37 Hejduk 90) Guatemala 1 (Perez pen 51). THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Pontins
League Pressier Division: Stoke 2 Leicester O. UniBoud League Challenge Cup
Taird round replay: Coheyn Bay 2 Droysden 3. Ryman League Punsa Cup Third
round: Bevishamsted Town O Chesham United 6. Sayhnooff Irish League Pressier
Division: Newry 1 Gientoran O.

GOLF

GOLF
TURESPANA MASTERS (Andaincia, Malaga) Early leading second round scores (GB or Iri untess stated): 133 F Undgren (Swe) 67 66. 134 G Orr 67: P-U Johansson (Swe) 67 67: I Garbutt 67 67. 138 S Webster 69 66; MA Jimenez (Sp) 69 66; R Gonzalez (Arg) 67 68. 136 M Farry (Fr) 69 67: I Garrodo (Sp) 73 63: G Owen 68 68. 137 T Gogele (Ger) 68 69. 138 R Jacquelin (Fr) 71 67: M Florioli (Iri 69 69. 139 M Florioli (Iri 69 69. 139 M Florioli (Iri 69 69. 139 M Florioli (Pr) 70 69; C Boscall 70 69: C Halmille (US) 70 69; J Senden (Aus) 72 67; R Chapman 70 69. 140 A Wall 70 70; J Berendt (Arg) 71 69; R Muntz (Neth) 70 70; M Scarpa (It) 69 71; F Cea

(Sp) 71 69; P Fulke (Swe(69 71, 141 P Affeck 72 69; A Harsen (Den) 68 73; JM Lara (Sp) 74 67; S Forrance 69 72; R Karkson (Swe) 70 71; A Raitt 70 71, 142 JM Canizanes (Sp) 70 75; T Deflund (Swe) 67 75; T Levet (Fr) 75 67; P Walton 72 70; A Sherborne 71 71; D Carrer 72 70; P Lawrie 73 69; A Beal 73 69.

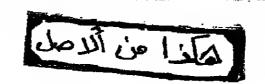
US PEGA HONDA CLASSIC (Florida) Leoding first round scores (US unless stated): 64 H Sutton. 65 E Booker. 66 D Barron. 67 D Pride, B Hughes. 68 6 Waite (NZ), B Watts, F Langham, D Mardin, T Scherrer, O Stiles, B MicCallister, M Hurrbert, M O'Meara. Selected others: 70 E Es (SA), N Price (Zim), 71 V Singh (Frijl), 72 S Lyfe (GB), C Montgomerie (GB), T Bjorn (Swe). 73 N Faldo (GB).

WELCHTS/CIRCLE K CHAMP-CONSTEP (Tiscson, Artbooka) Leading first round scores (US unless stated): 67 S R Pak (Kor), A Price-Bunch. O Pepper, H Kobayeshi (Japan), 68 A De Luca, T Green, K Escheter, O Eggeling, J Inkster, A Fukushima (Japan), 68 A De Luca, T Green, K Escheter, O Eggeling, J Inkster, A Fukushima (Japan), 68 A Packer-Macosko, O Ammocopane, L Bermenuti (Br), H Alfredson Sout, J J Marros, 70 C Kort (Swe), A Respec (Japan), 88 A Acter-Macosto, O Ammaccapane, L Bermenuti (Br), H Alfredsoon (Swe), T-J Myers, 70 C Koch (Swe), A Haredsoon (Swe), T-J Myers, 70 C Koch (Swe), A Benz, V Fergon, N Scranton, S Sceinhouer, K Golden, A Fruhwirth, J Dickreson, L Kone (Carl), N Lopez, M Mallon, 71 J Pitcock, K Coals, L Lambert (Aus), K Gallagher-Smith, P Hurst, M Estill, L Davies (GB), M Redman, G Graham (Carl), T Hanson, M Lum (Aus), Other GB: 72 J Morley, L Fairclough, S Lowe, 73 L Halchory, C Matthey, M Michay, 74 H Dobson, 75 T Johnson, 76 J Moodle, 80 C McMillon.

ICE HOCKEY NHL: Tampa Bay 5 Buffalo 2; Florida 2 Washington 1: Toronto 2 New York Islanders 1: Colorado 5 Philadelphia 3: Montreal 3 5t Louis 0: Vancouver 3 Phoenix 0. RSOAY'S LATE RESULT: Selconda Wicagus Play-offs Group B: Ayr 6 Tacrie 2

The minutes that

Il de to be played in Austria on 17-18



THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND MATT GATWARD



Six Mile Bottom in Beckham offer

ready and willing to give its name to the next offspring of David Beckham and fiancée Victoria. Following the

arrival of Brooklyn Beckham and suggestions in this column last week where Posh Spice might like to carry out her next pregnancy test in order to have a ready-made name for baby No 2, comes a generous offer from that very Suffolk

Actually, it comes from Gerry Crean, the proprietor of the Green Man Inn, whose hostelry near Newmarket racecourse has offered accommodation to the rich and famous for the past 500 years. He was both armused and delighted that Six Mile Bottom should be included in our list of, as be put it so tactfully, "possible Beckham baby conception centres".

He writes: "Indeed many a 'celebrity' child has been conceived at this inn, including quite a few royal bastards, since the 15th century. No, I don't mean referees! Among the many royal mistresses who were entertained here was Camilla Parker Bowles' greatgrandmother, Alice Keppel, who used to visit the inn with the then Prince of Wales!

"We still enjoy the custom of many famous celebrities, including well-known soccer players, particularly during the horse-racing season, but not David Beckham and his mistress, Victoria "Posh Spice". Not yet, at least. Perhaps after reading your column, they may fancy the idea of having a baby called Six Mile Bottom Beckham. I'll bave the Royal Conception Room prepared, but being a Chelsea fan, I'm afraid its decorated in hlue. I hope they won't mind!"

We hope that after last Wednesday night, nor will you, Gerry.

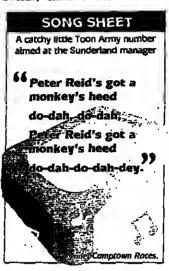
WITH IBRAHIMA Bakayoko at last finding his scoring teach with a match-winning brace for Everton at Blackburn in

midweek, it looks as If David Unsworth will have to put on hold his hopes of a new career as a strik- son I'd love to have a go." er. Ever since Walter Smith switched Don Hutchison from midfield to attack, the central defender has been badgering the manager to give him a run-out up front, too,

James' Park last Sunday can un-

In fact the switch may not be as risky as it sounds. Unsworth, who has a high ratio of success from the penalty spot, started out as a striker and played his schools football in that position. "I really hated playing at the back," he said. "You were never involved in the game enough, and I think I was a hit of a glory

Down the years numerous players have successfully made the switch, Chris Sutton and Dion



Dublin being two notable recent examples, while back in the Fifties, Blackburn's Fred Pickering was converted from a left-back into a highly successful striker and sold on to Unsworth's club for a then exorbitant fee of £85,000. But perhaps the most striking comparison, as Unsworth was once told by the former Everton manager Joe Royle, is Malcolm Macdonald. He, too, started off as a fairly anonymous leftback only to finish up in folklore as a centre-forward.

"I think he thought I had a simiand left-footed, too," said Unsworth. "I never ever got around to it, but if I'm involved in a testimonial match or something at the end of the sea-



IF ENGLAND'S hard-to-

SIX MILE Bottom. The and anyone who saw his stunning spect that Newcastle fans still show equaliser for the Merseysiders at St their former manager, even two years after leaving the club, then he may end up lasting longer in the job than either of his two predecessors. Glenn Hoddle and Terry Venables, and certainly longer than the next four matches. Anyone dropping in at York City's recent home match at Bootham Crescent, for instance, could be forgiven for thinking they were at St James' Park, so much in evidence were the black and white stripes. And it was all hecause the Geordie fans, with a Saturday to kill before their match against Arsenal, wanted to lend their support to Kee-

gan's visiting Fulham side.
Rurud Gullit, on the other hand, will never be taken to the Geordies' bosom in the same way as long he remains oblivious to the club's history. He made a great fuss recently about bestowing the No10 shirt (as vacated by John Barnes) on his new Croatian signing, Silvio Maric, without realising that the only num-ber which matters a jot on Tyneside is the No 9 made famous by, among others, the above mentioned "Supermac", Malcolm Macdonald.

DERBY COUNTY will no doubt be expecting another large crowd at Pride Park today for the

visit of Liverpool. But whatever the reasons are for why they keep coming back - and the opportunity to qualify for Europe is not the least of them – the chance of witnessing a glut of goals isn't one of them. Not once in 28 League games this season, plus five at the end of last season, have more than twogoals been scored, either by Derby or the visiting team, And if Michael Owen cannot put that right then no

THAT STRIKER with the Italian-sounding name who was both loved and hated in the Steel City is back playing for Sheffield. terfrance-plus Progressonably quiel: No, not Paolo D. Cassio but howe Varadi. Now in his 40th year, Varadi is turning out, appropriately, for Sheffield FC, allegedly the oldest football club in the world. The much-travelled Varadi, who, in fact, was born in Paddington, incurred the wrath of both Wednesday and please fans show Kevin United fans in the late early1980s by Keegan half the same playing for both clubs, though not,

AS YOU WERE



THE PRICE IS RIGHT

THE SWEEPER has hammer West Ham; Coventry can bury Blackburn; Arsenal can amnesia. He's forgotgun down Everton: Leicester can ten how to lose. Two winners - Arsenal to fox Charlton; Newcastle may beat Derby and Mandraw with Manchester United; Sheffield Wednesday may draw with Leeds, Tottenham may draw chester United to draw with Chelsea - and a non-runner (Barnsley v Tottenham) in last with Aston Villa; and Wimbledon can cut down Nottingham Forest. week's Trixie. And, though he's not sure whether it's the light-or just Freefalling Middlesbrough may be from being in the form of his life held to a draw by Southampton tothis weekend's Premiership promorrow while Fiorentina may gramme looks easy. Chelsea can draw with plucky Venezia.

THE SWEEPER'S DAY-EARLY RESULTS SERVICE LIBERO WAGERS (56, 25p prebles with Stanley): Chelsea to beat West Ham (4-9); Coventry to beat Blackburn (evens): Arsenal to win at Everton (5-6): Leicesber to beat Charl-

ton (4-5); Newcastie to draw with Manchester United (12-5); Sheffield ORIGINAL BANK: £100. Wednesday to draw with Leeds (9-4); (12-5); Windbiedon to beat Nottingham Forest (8-13).

E SUNDAY SKY GAME Middlesbrough v Southampton Draw (£2, 9-4, generally). Venezia v Fiorentina Draw (£2, 2-1, William Hill).

-----Tottenham to draw with Aston Villa CURRENT KITTY: £196.68!

TODAY'S BETS: £19.62 (inc. tax).

MASCOT ON THE MAT

Name: Gunnersaurus Club: Arsenal

Appearance: Dinosaur. Crime sheet: In keeping with Arsène Wenger's generous offer to restage an FA Cup tie with Sheffield United last month, Arsenal sources claim that Gunnersaurus is a superb that Gunnersaurus is a superb ambassador for his extinct



species and a professional mascot with an unblemished record. Sightings of this meteor-fearing beast pinned to the hallowed Highbury turf, having his face slapped by Ian Wright, the former Gunner, have been dismissed as light-hearted banter, and if unsubstantiated suggestions that Gunnersaurus once threatened to eat Leicester City's Filbert the Fox for breakfast within ear-shot of the Junior Gunner enclosure are true, it can only have been as the result of extreme provocation.

In mitigation. Your Honour: If, on rare occasions, Gunnersaurus has tested players' tempers, it can be explained by sheer over-exuberance. A roaring Arsenal fan, his desire to get involved in warm-ups understandably gets the better of him. Having watched the present Arsenal back four strutting their stuff though two ice ages, Gunnersaurus can surely be forgiven for believing he falls into the right age bracket to be given a run-out.

MY TEAM

degree of loyalty and re- of course, at the same time.



DUNDEE UTD

Breakfast Television presenter "I have been a Dundee United fan since 1987 (or 86). when my now husband took me on a first date to see them play Hearts. United lost 3-0, and I've supported them ever since. They had a brilliant team then Classy and elegant, with players like Paul Sturrock, Maurice Malpas and Jim McInally, When I was with TVAM I used to report on matches, I went to Borussia Mönchengladbach where I saw them in the Uefa Cup. I was so excited I could hardly do the interview afterwards. I've also been to the Nou Camp to see them play Barcelona. However I missed the 1994 Scottish Cup final under instructions from my doctor. The final was in May and my baby was born in June. If I had gone I would have had the baby there and then."

IN T'NET

Found on the Web: The Last Word THERE ARE internet sites aplenty out there in cyberspace catering for fans and followers of all persuasions. However, that kid who could not cut it as a player and so became a referee, has been somewhat neglected - until now. Continually ostracised by players, managers and fans alike, referees are fighting back. Their first step in this George versus the Dragon saga has been to create their own little site - all you Paul Alcock wannabes can seek solace at The Last Word. The site gives a comprehensive list of the laws of the game, exciting news updates in the world of decision-making, and best of all a forum so that all the men in black can get together and have a good mean about how difficult the job is. http://sunsite.unc.edu/byers/ref/index.html

SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

FOR THE legion Manchester United fans who live on the south coast and have never been further north than Cheam, they can now buy their own Theatre Of Dreams so they at least have an idea what the stadium looks like. A hand-painted, highly detailed Old Trafford model is a snip at just £70, or there is the slightly cheaper version at £20, but you have to paint this one yourself.

THEY'RE NOT **ALL DENNIS** BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign

legionnaires No 30
MARIO DORNER: The 29-year-old Austrian striker has delighted fans worldwide with his sublime goalscoring touch. His colourful career has taken him from Wustef in his home country, to Motherwell, where he made just two appearances, before his 1997 move to Darlington. With the invaluable experience of five Austria Under-21 caps Dorner, a huge success at the Third Division club. was the fans' player of the year last season as he fired 10 goals during the Quakers' promotion push. This season, possibly overawed by big-name players like Marco Gabbiadini, he has struggled to find his form, and has been busy keeping the bench warm. But with those talents it is surely only a matter of



And the lorryload of toxic waste award goes to...

A BRITON is fighting for the world heavyweight title tonight, though you'd hardly know it. Poor Lennox Lewis - he could be the first undisputed heavyweight champion from these shores this century and most of the population will be aware of it only through news bulletins and the papers.

For terrestrials like myself the big fight may as well not be happening.

There has been little cause for the principal channels to flag boxer is a king of the ring, just the event this week - why should they? - so the floor was left clear, unfortunately, to a for mer amateur boxer turned alleged comedian. Lee Evans' Kings of the Ring, (Channel 4 Thursday) was a strange title texcepting so far as every ically failed attempts to inte-



SPORT ON TV

for getting up there in the first place) for a tribute to the heroleally failed Briffish attempt on

the world heavyweight title. It was supposed to be funny. In the cause of this column, I've grimly viewed so many herofunny as a head-on collision with and more.

were some bits less unfunny than others. "The earliest , called me." known title fight", "was at 4.30. in the morning when Bruno met wise exactly that, the scenes Tyson," while Queensberry with the fat bloke particularly Rule No 13 is "the American alexecrable: in a Rocky take-off, ways wins." There was no sur- for instance, we saw him in a viving film of the Bob motil racket bitting a string of Fitzsimmons fight in 1899 so sausages. Shoot me somebody.

tually, that was quite funny).

as a death in the family? As played trainer Mickey Rough, preparing a fat bloke for a world an out of control juggernant diselight. He had a couple of deoverflowing with toxic waste? centlines: "When I fought Jerry across like Jerry Lewis on to star in a drama about the As funny as Nick Hancock Garcia in 1927...", "It's not the using a rude word? All of these winning that's important, it's Maybe it was just me. There "Nobody knew how to use the amid the ack-ack barrage of faropes like me. Rope Boy, they

The rough stuff was otherthere was a test card and the Evans also appeared as a docwords viewing on Sky only (ac- tor, a spoof German for no

grate sport and humour that so-called humour. There was a well as a bunch of other roles, first thespian pugilist. After "just sign here - it's what we nally spent. Dunn looked I've run out of similes. As funny running gag in which Evans non of them remotely amusing. The script apart, the pro-

gramme's fundamental problem was Evans, who comes crack. He suffers all the worst excesses of Carrey Syndrome. having your head taken apart". Any potential for humour lost pleasure, indeed its raison. All. cial ties and physical jerks. Give him his tranks, you feel like saying. He has a simple formula: if something isn't firmy, exaggerate it. If that's still not inserted into the early silent

> End of story. Still, the programme wasn't entirely devoid of merit, with some interesting historical bits.

Fitzsimmons lost to Gentleman Jim Corbett he trod the boards. while Gunner Moir, who lost to Tommy Burns in 1907, went on Maria Celeste

The programmes principal d'étre was the archive footage (which could have been more gainfully employed in a proper documentary of course). We could do without the titles funny, exaggerate it some more. stuff-"ding" etc-but later on, there was atmospheric film of Rocky Marciano punching, butting and forearm smashing his way to victory over Don There was quite a nice theme Cockell, with Evans dubbing a

call a suicide note"

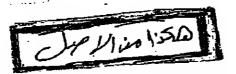
There was excellent stuff place," he murmured. about the "game" Later Later don, who was overwhelmed by Floyd Patterson, and, inevitably, much about the various challenges to Muhammad

in Munich. Ali confronted him fight, his finger jabbing in a man charging madly into a Dunn's face. "You will never threshing machine." take my crown. You will never no more while the Yorkshiretally, that was quite funny). good reason, reminiscence of about boxers and showbiz - funny voice over film of the hap-this was about the best of the Herr Flick in 'Allo, 'Allo as Big Lovable Frank wasn't the less Brit signing the contract than bemused. When Ali was fi-

around him. "This is a nice

The star of the entire programme was the unknown American commentator in Munich. Tve never seen a man recover from so many right-handers outside of a The highlight of Kings of the movie," he said, as Ali's fists pound Dunn's face. My favourite line carne as Dunn advances like in the hall in the run-up to the a Tommy on the Somme, "like

If only the script for Kings take my crown. No Briton will the First had one or two ball as decent as that. Some on, ranting until he could rant may have said that as a boxer, Evans was a comedian, perman regarded him with a haps he should have stuck to punches rather than punch



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1.14

Contract States · North State

TOP ****

A Mills

Premier clubs to escape Fifa ban

FOOTBALES WORLD governing BY KIERAN DALY body. Fifa, have threatened to ban clubs if they do not release players for the World Under-20 Championships in Nigeria next month, but the Football Association has insisted that Premiership clubs will not he

The FA's technical director, Howard Wilkinson, has already atated that he will not be picking (*, st-team regulars, and the FA's spokesman, Steve Double, confirmed that the Double, confirmed that the sociation reports to us that a tournament would be used to club has withheld a player from develop young players.

Tournaments like these are all about developing the internationals of the future." Double said. "We will be sending a country proud and we have liaised with Fifz throughout.

We have spoken to Fifa and no question of action being taken against the FA."

The FA added that the Liverpool striker Michael Owen, who is eligible for the tournament, was never going to be con-Somebody has raised the question. Michael Owen but tournaments like these are all about developing the full internationals of the future and for somebody like Michael that would be

a backward step," said Double. Originally, the Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, had been angered by England not sending

and he threatened suspension against England and the FA. "They have to send the best teams otherwise it will not work," Blatter said. "If they don't send the best teams, they will be suspended by Fifa."

Fifa'a general secretary. Michel Zen-Ruffinen, also warned if the clubs do not release their players they risk being banned. "If a national ascompeting we will take action."

The Leeds manager, David

O'Leary, announced recently that he would not allow his strong team which will do their first-team players to take part in the tournament, and Wilkinson assured him such players were unlikely to be selected. have been assured that there is The Everton striker Francis Jeffers, Aston Villa centre-back Gareth Barry, Manchester United full-back Wes Brown and West Ham midfielder Joe Cole are other Premiership players set to be excluded. Wilkinson said: "I never had any intentions of taking players who are involved on a regular basis with their first teams." ■ Blatter is taking legal action to stop a new book, How They

Stole the Game by David Yallop, that alleges corruption in his election battle with the Uefa esident, Lennart Johannson. to take over from the retiring a full-strength squad to Nigeria Fifa president, João Havelange.



Rnud Gullit goes back to the drawing board with his Newcastle United team in training at Chester-le-Street yesterday Owen Humphries/PA

Grimsby want happy return

ALAN BUCKLEY wants his Grimsby side to make up for lost time and try to get themselves back in contention for a play-off place against the First Division leaders, Sunderland, at Blundell Park today.

Grimsby's last three fixtures have all fallen victim to the weather and Buckley said; "We've got three games and, in some cases, four games in hand over clubs and if we were to win just two of those, we

talking about winning games are two different things

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, hands a debut to the goalkeeper Andy Marriott in place of Thomas Sorensen, who suffered concussion against Bradford on Tuesday. The West Midlands rivals

Birmingham and West Bromwich Albion, both of whom are in the play-off places, meet at St Andrews with Lee Hughes - the country's leading would be in a play-off spot. But scorer with 31 goals - out

"We've sneaked into the top six and this will be a big game for us as Birmingham are a very good side," Malcolm Crosby, the West Brom assistant manager, said. "We want to stay in the play-off places for at least the next couple of weeks and if we can do that, then any-

Away at relegation rivals Port Vale, Gary Megson, the Stockport manager, is looking for his side to repeat the fight-

thing can happen. We still think

that we can be there at the end

of the season."

day's 2-1 defeat of Swindon when they played with 10 men for more than an bour after Sean Connelly was sent off. "For us to get a result was tremendous. I was delighted with the effort and commitment," Megson said. "It's all about getting results and we will just have to try and get some more results now so that it doesn't become any more of

a problem later on. Steve Bruce, the Sheffield United manager, believes his

lenging for promotion. The Blades are three points away from a play-off spot despite having to sell players to keep the club financially secure and Bruce, whose side visit Tranmere tomorrow, said: "We're one of several clubs who are all playing for sixth place.

"I know that supporters' expectations were higher at the start of the season but with the transfer situation here and the injuries we've had, I'm pleased

Todd's faith stays strong

NATIONWIDE

COLIN TODD is refusing to panic after seeing his Bolton side slide down the First Division. Wanderers have gone five games without a win, conceding 12 goals in their last four matches as they have slipped to fifth - six points short of Bradford in second place.

But Todd is keeping faith in his side for today's home game with Queen's Park Rangers. "When we had gone 15 games unbeaten, no one was running us down," Todd said. "The only problem at the moment is the state of mind of the players; they don't lose their ability. They're exactly the same players who helped us go unbeaten for 15 games. There's nothing wrong in the camp, but the media are trying to direct the situation to appear worse than it is."

The Wolves assistant manager, John Ward, will put his worries for Bristol City's wellbeing to one side for 90 minutes when the Robins visit Molineux. Ward walked out as Ashton Gate manager earlier this year after the club appointed Benny Lennartsson, now the manager, as director of football without his approval.

Ward said: "I can sympathise with the players and fans because we all went through a lot of hard work to get the cluh into Division One last season. But professionally I'm working for Wolves and will be putting all my efforts into getting a win for us."

Bristol City have aigned the 27-year-old Manchester City winger Neil Heaney on loan until the end of the season and be is set to make his debut at

Hendry blow to European hopes Batistuta returns for Fiorentina

THE RANGERS defender Colin Hendry is almost certainly out of Scotland's Euro 2000 doubleheader against Bosnia and the Czech Republic later this month. The 32-year-old former Blackburn captain last played in & Scottish Cup victory when be has been missing with an ankle problem.

make Dick Advocaat's squad for today's Premier League game

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

while the Dutchman refused to say he will definitely not make the Scotland side, he admitted he was very doubtful.

doubts about that. The final

TODAY

FOOTBALL 3.0 unless stored FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

2 Coventry v Blackburn
3 Derby v Liverpool
4 Everton v Arsenal
5 Leicoster v Onation
6 Newcaszie v Man Utd
7 Sheff Wed v Leeds
8 Tottenham v Asson Villa.
9 Wimbledon v Notwin Forest
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
FRIST DIVISION
10 Birmsham v West Brom
11 Bolton v OPR
12 Bradford v Notwich
13 Bury v Bartsley
14 Gransby v Sunderland
15 Joswich v Huddersled
16 Onford Utd v Watford
17 Port Vale v Stockport
18 Portsmouth v Crystal Palace
20 Tranmer v Sheff Utd
21 Wokerhampton v Bristol City
5ECOND DIVISION
23 Bournemouth v Reading
24 Lincoln City v Chesterfield
25 Linton v Stoke
26 Macclesfield v Colchester
27 Man City v Oddham
28 Milhvall v Walsall
28 Notts County v York
30 Wigan v Gillingham
28 Milhvall v Walsall
29 Notts County v York
30 Wigan v Gillingham
31 Wycombe v Northampton
THIRD DIVISION
32 Barnet v Cambridge Utd
33 Brenthold v Shrewsbury
34 Brighton v Darlington
35 Cardiff v Yorquay
36 Chestel v Scuntinope
37 Halira v Caniste
38 Leyton Orient v Hull
38 Mansheld v Rockdale
Peterbarough v Swansea
Phymouth v Hartlepool
Scarborough v Bodertham
Southport v Dover
NACTIONWIDE CONFERRICE
Doncaster v Hayes
Farmborough v Ringstonian
Veoli v Heretord
Scorttist Presenter League
Forest Green v Kingstonian
Veoli v Heretord
V Entry v Kingstonian
Veoli v Heretord
Scorttist Presenter League
A Studentwille v Storniaer
V Honder Utd v Hearts
V First Division
45 Achieved
A Sciptistonia v Hobernan

Stone v Kilmarnock FIRST DIVISION

45 Airdie v Stranser
46 Ciydebank v Hiberman
47 Falkerk v St Muren
48 Morton v Raith
58 ECOND DIVISION
48 Fortar v Arbroath
- Inverness CT v East File
- Livingsron v Chuéen of the South
- Partick v Clyde
- Sacting v Alloa
- Berwick v Ourbarton
- Cowdenbath v Ross County
- East Strling v Stenhousemuk
- Montrose v Brachin
- Oucen's Park v Alloon

decision will be made by Craig prise return to Dunfermline

chances of gaining maximum points from the two Euro 2000 games - a must in a delicately balanced qualifying campaign. Leicester's Matt Elliott and the Aberdeen centre-back

Berkhamsted Town v Carivey Island; Grays Athlecot v Maldernhead Utch, Hitchin Town v Leatherhead; Leyton Pernant v Whyteleafer; Molesey v Wenthieg, Odrod Clay v Braintone Kwentige, Odrod Clay v Braintone Kwentige v Bognor Regis Town; Wooldstone v Borton Rouers; Worthing v Staines Town; Vesding v Corydon, Second Divisione Abingson Town v Hentford Town; Brainting v Edgware Town, Bedford Kown v Wheelsone Edward Kwentige, Bedford Kown v Wheelsone Edward Whitehom Fown, Hartow v Beacherd Town v Wheelsone Edward Whitehom, Hungerford Town v Wildham Town; Martow v Banstead Arhitekte, Northwood V Hartow V Grows; Windson & Eton v Met Police. Third Divisione: Copton v Camberley V Borthila, Ford Utd v Cheshunt; Hornehurch v Croydon Athletic: Mingstony Isom v Flactowell Hearth; Lewes v Areley; Tilbury v Iring Town; Wingste & Finchley v Borthing.

UNEBOND LEAGUE Premaler Division: Accordington Sanley v Bishop Auddant; Birth Spartony v Bansher Bridge; Chorley v Frickley, Galnsborough v Garestead; Lancaster v Whitely Bown; Leigh RMI v Altrincham; Runcorn v Colwyn Bar; Spennymoor v Gaseley, Stalybridge v Marine; Winsford Utd v Hyde Utd. Pinse Divisions Ashton Und v Lincoln Utd. Bradford PA v Fiboon, Burstough v Belper Town , Eastwood Town v Gongleton Town; Gretan v Huckmal Town, Harton Land, Whitey Bay v Droyleden; Witton Albion v Great Harveod Town. Jensey Marton Landon v Harstone; Dorchers v Merchyr; Halesowen v Weymouth; Ilbeston in v Bromsgotte Premaler Divisione: Ashtord Konen v Cambell Town; Weston-Houd Arton Land, Burt L Addin v Harstone Town v Grows Standon V Blownich Town. Cambridge Clay; Salisbury v Munesaton, Camworth V Gouceaser Clay William Control Conen. Statement School Conen. School Conen. School Conen. School Conen. School Conen.

IOWN V Deal Iown.

INLSPORT UNITIED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Blackstone v Cogenhoe; Buckinghar v Bourne; Eymestury v Potton; Long Buckinghar v Bourne; Eymestury v Potton; Long Bucking v Sei L Corby; Stochold v Desborough, Wellingborough v Holbeach: Vanley v St. Neors.

UNITIET SUSSER COUNTY LEAGUE Firms: Divisions: Broadbridge Heath v Storeham; East Preston v Burgess Hill Town. Eactbourne Exem V Littlehampton Town. Hallsham Town v Littlehampton Town. Hallsham Town v Littlehampton Town. Hallsham Town v Chichester City; Hassocks v Whitestwice Languey Sports v Wild; Pagham v Horsham V MC Ar Portfield v Ringmer: Rednitl v Eactbourne Urd, Saltidean Urd v Scheg SCREMPTX DIVECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Barnstaple fown v Michigham Town: Bidefond v Calve Town v Michigham Town: Chippenham Town v Backwell Urd; Praulen Rowers v Yeold TR.

NORTH MEESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE Parez

Rosics v Neovil TR
MORTH NESTERIN TRAINS LEAGUE First
Divisions: Oneadle Town v Bootle: Clarieroe
v Glostop North End, Leek CSOB v Holker OldBoys: Mossley v Atherton Collieries: Ramsbottom Uta v Rudgrove Athletic; St Helens
form v Natrushi: Ioem: Serimensdale Uta v
Safford City, Vaunhall GM v Manie Road; Workington v Atheroon LE

Safford Chry, Vaunhan GM v Marie Roard Workingron v Atherton LR

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST Pramier Division; Armshorpe Welfare v Buston, Armold

Town v Gasshoughton Welfare; Denaby United v Pickering Town; Garforth Town v Ossert

Abtion, North Ferriby United v Haldam; Ossert

Town Selby Town v Stavetey AME Sheffled v

Eccleshid Urd; Thackley v Liversedge.

ARRIGHT INSUIRANCE NORTHERN

LEAGUE Pirac Distaine Blingham Synthonia

v Morpeth Youn, Chester Le Streer v Arrow

Roofing; Dunson Federation v Marsie Urd;

Nevessite Base Star v Crook Yown; Pennich v

Billingham Town; Shidon v Consett: South

Shields v Stockton; Tow Law Yown v Easing.

after losing his job as manager of the Premier League club. He will report directly to the Pars manager, Dick Campbell, who was previously Paton's right-hand man at East End GABRIEL BATISTUTA is back ITALIAN FOOTBALL and, with 10 games left Fiorentina will trying to keep up the BY IAN DAVIES. pressure on Lazio, the league. leaders, when they visit plucky Venezia in Channel 4's live

Serie A game tomorrow. Batistuta, the Florence club's brilliant Argentinian centre-forward who has scored 18 league goals this term, has

Fiorentina's Italian Cup semifinal second leg tie with Bologna to help La Viola reach the final. Pasquale Padalino, the defender, also returns but Rui Costa, Fiorentina's Portuguese playmaker, is suspended and

three deaths in a car crash, is out with bruised ribs.

Venezia, who have lost just two of their last eight games and won their last five games without Emanuele Brioschi, the defender (suspended).

Lazio, who lead Fiorentina by four points, visit bottom-

in Brazil last week for causing die European Cup quarter-final second leg with Manchester United there on Wednesday.

Ronaldo, Inter's Brazilian striker, is expected to make his first league appearance since at their island stadium, will be mid-January. Il Fenomeno without Emanuele Brioschi, played for the last 35 minutes on Tuesday as Inter lost the second leg of their Italian Cup semi-final to Parma.

came on in the 66th minute in and half year prison sentence San Siro ahead of their do-or-

OUOTES OF THE WEEK

Today we saw the All Blacks playing in red jerseys. France coach Jean-Claude Skrela applauds Wales' brilliant 34-33 win in Paris.

The tortoise beat the hare. Ferrari driver Eddie Irvine enjoys his success - and the McLarens' failure - at the Australian Grand Prix.

Some days he could climb Everest and other days be can't climb out of bed. Aston Villa boss John Gregory on striker Stan Collymore, who is being treated for depression.

The Italians are used to going to places and playing a different formation. They are not like the Englishmen who might go to clinics when they are left out. Derby boss Jim Smith sings Francesco Baiano's praises.

We call it the Viagra punch because it stiffens every part of the body - bar the private parts. Jack Trickett, manager of boxer Michael Brodie.

Tve had the whole of the Caribbean behind me since I was a teenager and there is no reason to let up. Brian Lara after West Indies had recorded their lowest-ever Test score of 51, against Australia.

l am sorry if you me-interpreted my actions during the game, which were not meant to cause any offence. Letter from Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler to England colleague Graeme Le Saux after their bust-up at Chelsea.

with Motherwell at Ibrox and

"I was told be could be back against Stenhousemuir, since for Saturday but I was informed vesterday that it will be a bit longer yet," said Advocaat.
"Hopefully be can start training again next week but I have my frame to replace Hendry.

Brown and his team but in my opinion Colin is very doubtful." Hendry's absence would be a buge blow to Scotland's

as chief scout just two months

Paton will take responsibility for player recruitment at all Bert Paton has made a sur- ager when that post is filled.

TON; West Auckland v Guisborough Town,
INTERLIBNE ENTPRESS BIBLUAND POOTBALL ALLIANNEE BERNEU PERSTONE TOWN
Clasectown v West Michards Police; Halestowen
Harriers v Boldmere; Sr Michaels Hings Norton Town v Risshall Olympic, Knypersky Victoria v Sandwell Borought, Chifury Unit v Petsal
Wilk: Rocester v Stapperhit; Shifnal Town v Willenhall Town; Scourport Swifts v Bridgmorth
Town; Vechesheld v Stratford Town.
JERSON WESSER LEAGURE First Drissbou:
Alc Newbury v Millicuteric Urd, Ar Totton v
Portsmouth RN: Bournemouth v Downton;
Chystochard v Tharcham Town: Cowes Sports
v Lymlogton & New Million; East Cowes Vics
v Wimborne Town: Eastleigh v Money Fickls;
Fareham Town v BAI: Gosport Borough v
Brockenhums; Hamble ASSC v Bermetron
Health Harl.
JERSON EASTERN LEAGUE Promise Diutsions Diss Town v Woodbridge Town; Falkenham Knwn v Stownarhet Town; Felksctowe
Port & Town v Halstead Town; Gorteston v Cly
Cly; Harwich & Parteston v Grage Varmouth
Town; Maldon Town v Lowestoft Town; Neumarket Town v Ipsuck Wanderers; Suffuny
Wanderers v Soham Town Rangers; Warboys
v Bury Town; Watton Utd v Sudbry Town,
Hight AND LEAGUE Bucket Thistle
Fraceburyl Cove Rangers Rothes v Forres Mechanics.
WELSH CUP Onserter-Brait: Ammanford
Bont v Conwy United (2, 20); Carmarthen Town
V Port Labor (2, 30); This v Combran (2, 30)
LEAGUE G WALLES Man Let o Aberystwych (2, 0); Banger Coy v Rhayader Town (2, 0);
Barry Town v (2, 30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY UNION

2.30 unless stated ALLIED DUNBAR

SRK CUT CHALLENGE CUP OUARTER-FINALS Castleford v Salford (3.0)

Ebbw Voie v Neadh Pontypradd v Newport First Division: Bickingod v Dunvant; Bon-mach v Merthyn: Cross Keys v Fonds, pool v Newbridge: Rummey v Ireorchy; South Maise Police v Aberdiery; Tredegar v Llan-down; Postpamed: UMIC (Caroff Inst) v

ANGLO-MELSH FRIENDLY

ANGLO-MELSH FRIENDLY
Cardin' v Harlequins
TENNENT'S VIEINET PREMIERSHIP
PRIST DIVESTON
Hawick v Currie (3.0)
Heriot's FP v Boroughmuir (3.0)
Metrose v Glasgow Hawis (3.0)
Watsontars v Jed-Forest (3.0)
West of Scotland v Sorfing County (3.0)
Second Division: Aberdeen CSFP v Seldrik
(3.0), Biggar v Metso (3.0); Kürkaldy v Dundee
HSFP (3.0); Musselburgh v Gala (3.0).
Third Division: Bersick v Presson Lodge (3.0);
East Albride v Ayr (3.0); Grangemouth v Gor-

the youth development man- jury However, in midweek, he er who has been given a four Internazionale play Milan at the

WEEKEND POOLS CHECK AND FIXTURES GUIDE donlans (3.0); Pecbles v Glasgow Southern (3.0); Srewarts Mel FP v Glorrothes (3.0); Alia LEAGURE Phras Divisions: Buccaneers Voung Munster; Contart v Cork Consditution; Garryonen v Biodrock College; Larodowns v Bellymens: Shankins v Gabheghare; St Marys v Terenure. Second Divisions: Ballynahinch v DLSP; Becthe Rangers v Gerystones: Dolprin v Dungarnnor; Malone v Sunday's Well; Old Beheddere v Skertes; Portadown v Derry, UCC v Old Westey; Wanderers v Old Crescent.

HOCKEY

EHL First Dietalous Hull v Surbiton (2.0). SOUTH Premier: High Wycombe v Fareham. DTZ MEDLAND Premier: Edgbaston v Har-borne, Hampton-in-Artica v Coventry & North-

DTZ MEDLAND Premier: Edgbaston v Har-borne, Harpton-in-Arien v Constry & North Warwick Rhatsa v North Norts: Nottingham v Northanpton Salms: Olton & West War-wick v Leek; Strewsbury v North Stafford, PREMIER HOLLDAY'S EAST Premier: Bedford Town v Blucharts: Colchester v Bish-ops Stordont; Crosiya v Cembridge City, Ip-swich v Cambridge Univ: Peterbarbugh Town v Cacton. NORTH Premier: Bowdon v Harrogate: Chester v Nestor; Notton v Shefffeld Bankers; Rocherham v Formby, Southport v Ben Rhydding.

Coughtonians v St. Abaras; Sherwood v Wohing,

WOMMEN'S WEST Premier: Cheitenham v
Southon Vale; Colwell v Ermouth: Portishead Frebrands v Bournemouth: Redlands
v Exerce; St. Austell v Leominister, Redlands
v Exerce; St. Austell v Leominister, Redlands
v Exerce; St. Austell v Leominister,
WOMEN'S NORTH Plant Divisions Chester
v Liverpool: Deside Ramblers v Leyland Motors; Con Valley v Winnington Parit; Sheffield
v Blackburn

WOMEN'S EAST Premier: Ashford v Ipswich; Blucharts v Dereham; Harleston
Maggles v Bury St. Edmunds; Letchworth v
Cambridge City

WOMEN'S BEDLAND Premier: Beiger v
Olton Terraquest; Crimson Ramblers v Rettering; Loughtorough Soudens v Bedford;
Luton v North Staffs.

WOMEN'S SOUTH West, Divisions Hendon
v Maldenhead; Horsham v Winchester;
Southampton v Rower Cowley, Reading v
Duiwich; Tuise Hill v West Witney. Reading v
Duiwich; Tuise Hill v West Witney.

TESS First Divisions City of Onford v Bracknell; Farmham Common v Wycombe Ryes
Milton Reynes v West Witney; Codord Hanris
v Oxford Units, Newbury v Henley; Reading
v Phoenis Planted Common v Word Cowley;
Wokingham v Sonning.

Middand Bank Weish Women. Colwyn Bay v
Cardif Adhecic Commone v UWIC: Newtown
v Newport; Swansea v Penarch. ALLED DUNBAR
PREMIERSHIP ONE
London Scotcish v Bedford (3.0)
Northampton v Leicester (4.0)
Northampton v Leicester (4.0)
Northampton v Leicester (4.0)
Northampton v Leicester (4.0)
Sale v Saracetts (3.0)
Sale v Sale v Sale v Blackheath
(3.0)
Sale v Sale

BASKETBALL

ICE HOCKEY SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE Play-ofts: Nottingham v Ayr (7.0); BrackneR v Man-chester (6.0); London v Sheffield (7.0).

OTHER SPORTS BADMINTON: All England Open Cham-pionships [ar NIA. Birmingham].
BOXING: European super-ban-sumweight citie: M Brodle (Manchester, holder) v 5 Medikoune [Fr]: European, Commonwealth & British light-heary-Commonwealth of Erroll fight-heavy weight titles: C Ashley (Leeds, holder v C Woods (Sheffield): Vacant British d Commonwealth figweight titles: O Rely (Beirast, holder) v A Hanna (Birming ham), for Bowler's Nightchio, Manchester) RALDTING Vauchall Rally of Wales. RALLYING: Vauxhall Rally of Wales.
TABLE TENNIS: English Open (at Potters Lesure Centre, Great Yarmouth).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL PA CARLING PREMIERSHIP diesbrough v Southampton (4.0) NATIONWEEL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

Burnley v Preston (1.0)

SIK CUT CHAILENGE CUP
OUARTER-FINALS
Bradford v Warrington (2.30)
London v Whitchaven (2.30)
Widnes v Leeds (3.0)
Worth-ERN FORD Premierstalp: Densbury v Keighley (3.30): Doncaster v Batley (3.0); Hunster v Hull KR (3.30): Rochdale v Leigh (3.0; Workington v Bramley (3.0); York v Swinton (3.0).

RUGBY UNION ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE

HOCKEY

EHI. Premiers Bournelle v Guildford (2.30);
Brooklands v Beesson (2.0); Cannock v East
Grinstead (2.30); Canterbury v Southgate (1.9); Old Loughtonians v Resding (2.0); Reddington v Hournslow (2.0). First Divisions:
Ordensford v Barford Tigers (1.0); Doncaster v Harleston Magpies (2.0); Eastcote v Oxford Hawks (1.0); Hampstead & Wessminster v Indian Gymidhama (12.30); Havent v Lewes (2.0); Hull v Oxford Univ (2.0); Isca v Bromiley (2.0); Shaffield v Firebrands (2.30); Stourport v Surbiton (2.0).

***BOOMERN'S EHS. Pressier: Doncaster v Otton Terraquest (12.0).

****Excellenting State State Divisions Loughborough Students v Bradford (1.30).

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Birm-Ingham (5.30): Edinburgh v London (5.0): Greater London v Thames Valley (4.0): Mil-ton Keynes v Sheffield (5.0).

ICE HOCKEY SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE Play-offs: Manchester v London (5.0): Sheffield v Bracknell (6.30): Cardiff v Ayr (6.0): New-casde v Nottingham (6.30).

BADNUTTON: All England Open Championship (or NiA, Birmingham).

TABLE TENNIS: English Open (of Potrers Leisure Centre, Great Varmouth).

THIS WEEK'S

TRANSFERS

FULL TRANSFERS Free transfers or undisclosed fees unless stated

Steve Stone (midfielder) Nottingham Forest to Aston Villa (E5.5m); Stone Harkonss (defender) Liverpoof to Bertica (Por) (E750,000); Stark Debanes (defender) Caroliff City to Aston Villa (E500,000)

LOANS/TRIALS



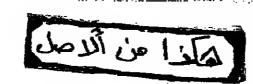
VIP TICKETS TO THE AXA SPONSORED F.A.CUP **SEMI-FINALS**

The Independent has teamed up with Insurance giant AXA to offer two lucky readers the opportunity of winning a pair of VIP tickets to each AXA sponsored F.A.Cup Semi-Final.

In November AXA launched the AXA F.A.Cup Legends Awards by presenting the very first award to Sir Stanley Matthews at Wembley. Over the last four months, leading football writers and broadcasters have been voting for their all time great eleven players and one manager. The results have all been counted and all winners of the AM Legends Awards will be announced comorrow exclusively in the Independent on Sunday.

All you have to do to win the tickets to one of the F.A. Cup semi-finals is to look at the AM Legends XI in tomorrows paper and select the three Legends who you think received the most individual votes. Leave your name and full address with your daytime telephone number on the line. The first two correct entries randomly selected will receive a pair of tickets to one of the AA F.A.Cup Semi-Finals, including travel and overnight accommodation, if

Don't miss tomorrows Independent on Sunday for entry details.



Pringle's perspective suits Charlton

Glenn Moore meets a forward with an unusual upbringing who is a key player in his club's fight against relegation

THE PLACE was London, at the tail-end of the Sixties. He was Jamaican and had travelled to the centre of the old empire to pursue his studies; she was a Swedish au pair and, says her son, had come to city of Carnaby Street and the Rolling Stones "to have fun". They met, married and went to live in Sweden.

This classic love story, embodying an era in which young people began to choose their own destiny, has now spawned

Thirty years on another romantic tale is brewing in the capital, one of triumph against the odds, of a battling underdog and an unlikely saviour.

The putative hero is the son of that cross-cultural Sixties union, Martin Pringle, a dark-skinned Swede with an English name signed from Portugal.

When Martin Ulf Pringle his full name reveals his Scandinavian heritage - arrived at Chariton Athletic they had lost eight matches in succession and were sliding back into the First Division. They lost again, at Southampton, where he came on as substitute, but he then marked his first start with the last-minute goal that secured a draw against New-

Since then Charlton have taken 10 points from six matches and hauled themselves out of the relegation area if not out of danger, Pringle, who has scored two further goals, this month had his loan signing converted to a permanent move at the bargain price, for a 28-year-old Swedish international striker, of £800,000.

Today he leads the Chariton attack at Leicester City hoping to put the club's unexpected revival back on track after last week's loss at Coventry.

Having been leading 1-0 against 10 men, the defeat struck hard but Pringle hopes it could prove beneficial. "Sometimes a defeat helps to get the concentration back," he said when we met at Chariton's service in one of the most deeast London. "We can use the Swedish Army then did a wide loss as a wake-up call. We variety of jobs while making his should not have lost but have to accept it and dig in."

talk from a footballer in his po- a mailman, a bartender, a waitsition but, in Pringle, Charlton have got a player with a broader sense of perspective than

sequence of growing up as a get a different view of life, more

Scandinavian-West Indian in such a homogenous society as Sweden - he says he had no problems - as the self-reliance developed from the death of his father while he was a teenag-

name in the game as a parttime footballer with Stenung-This is customary fighting sund and Helsingborg. "I was er, a teaching assistant and, for four years, worked in the construction industry.

"It makes you appreciate This is not so much the con- being a full-time footballer. You

down to earth. It means you do not feel above anyone else even if you are a top footballer. Some players may feel they make a lot of money and want to gloat but I know I've been lucky to be a fessional players."

pitch where Pringle, like most Scandinavian imports, displays a healthy work-rate. "He doesn't give up," notes his team-mate John Robinson. "He has presence and he frightens

Not that this was always appreciated. "In Portugal they always said stay in the box, you are supposed to be in there scoring goals', but that is not

what I do. I work hard for my win the championship, cup, team-mates. It wasn't really appreciated there until Graeme Souness carne in."

It was Souness who eventually sold Pringle, but the play-

whatever we could win. I never had problems with him but some of the Portuguese lads did. They were used to their lifestyle and he shook everything up, but once they got

'I was a mailman, a bartender, a waiter, a teaching assistant and worked in construction... It makes you appreciate being a footballer'

had previously been alerted to Pringle's potential by the former Charlton player Scott Minto, now at West Ham but then at Benfica with Pringle. "He came into the club un-

affected by the run we were having. He was obviously a lot fresher and gave us a lift," said Curbishley.

only made the signing permanent after Souness, anxious for cash to finance this week's ing gained a permanent move I hope he is still hungry. I was quite happy with him having to fight for everything but I've had a word with him and don't think he is going to rest on what

enough. The deal means he can start looking for permanent accommodation. He and his wife Nina are currently in a nearby hotel which, with the arrival of six-week-old son Hugo, is getting cramped. It could also lead to his gaining a higher profile in Sweden and, perhaps, an international recall especially as, unlike compatriots Frederik

Pringle seems eager

Ljungberg, Andreas Andersson and Jesper Blomqvist, he signing of Steve Harkness, cut is playing regularly.
the asking price, added: "Havcurious hybrid of Jamaican, south London - he still has relatives in Tooting - and Scandinavian, might have been lost to the game entirely. As a youngster he not only played ice

hockey, but was better at it than

was easier to get attention as a footballer. In ice bockey there is very little time to show your skills because you are in and out all the time. In football you are always on the pitch."

football. "I played for eight

years but swapped because it

Chelsea W

Coventry City W

Blackburn Rovers

Derby County &

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3 文 1一次17年4年

هم هوه دهنتي د

Everton y

Arsenal

Football, I venture, is participated also less dangerous "No, ice hockey is safer because we wear all that padding."

Ice hockey's loss is Charlton's gain and, though Curbishley emphasises that Pringle still needs to work on his finishing - he missed two good chances against Coventry, there is relief that they now have a forward who looks like scoring. With 10 matches to go that could make the differ-



professional footballer, espeer remains a fan er and his wide experiences outside football. cially coming from Sweden He opted to do his military where there are not many pro-

"He is a demanding coach. into it they got along as well. I

He is used to very high standards and wants so much from think he is doing well."

Pringle, however, increashis players. He knows what it ingly found himself either on the takes to get up there having bench or on the wing and was been there as a player and be ready to move when apwanted us to push ourselves to proached by Curbishley. He he has gained."

Kidd's bruised-and-white army

BRIAN KIDD was not joking when he invited journalists this week to examine why Blackhurn Rovers have spent £36m this season only to find themselves in the bottom three of the Premiership with 10 matches to go. "Look at my treatment

real quality." Unfortunately, it is on the pitch that quality counts and Kidd takes his bruised-andwhite army to Coventry today for a relegation six-pointer having lost their last four games. Naturally, Blackburn will be at less than full strength with only one full-back. Callum Davidson, and one centre-half. Stéphane Henchoz, available thanks to injury and suspension.

"I've been in this situation since day one," Kidd said, "but we can't keep going on about the injury situation we have to get on with what we've got. I've told the players that we can't afford to feel sorry for ourselves or say why me?". That's life and we'll battle on." Blackburn lost to Everton on

Wednesday and there is a danger they will be four points adrift of safety by tonight if they lose at Highfield Road and Charlton continue their recent improved form at Leicester. "I don't want to be in a position where we have to rely on other people's results to stay up." Chariton's manager, Alan Curhishley, said yesterday. Worryingly for Rovers they are rapidly approaching that position. Kidd's former club, Man-

Trafford. The arithmetic is simple: if they win their next 16 games they will be European and English champions, and FA Cup winners. United, however, could come crashing to the hard stuff today at Newcastle where they confront a team who might also stand in their way at Wembley on 22 May and who have been beaten only once in their last 11 games.

goal against Nottingham Forest on Wednesday, and needs only one more to get his 150th in the League. He now has 15 this season which would be considered a formidable strike-rate if it were not for Dwight Yorke whose gluttony for goals -26 in 34 starts for United - would have encouraged fears of an eating disorder if he applied it meals. And to think there were voices (including this one) who

beaten run to 16 matches against Sheffield Wednesday on Tuesday hut will meet a team whose mood changed radically at Ewood Park in midweek.

Instead of a team crushed by recent reverses there will be semblance of confidence about Everton and particularly Ibrahima Bakayoko whose two goals against Blackburn restored hope that he might not be a case of throwing Goodison money after bad. Even he accepted he had to be dropped, saying: "I hadn't been playing well and had to he replaced. It was up to me to work hard and

Teachtreas (Authorize pr. 18 May 1918 Pr. 5 Apr. Annual St. 5 Apr. Colorby M.

Double. They travel to Everton today having taken their unhave never felt under presented. sure, but it is important that as

a striker I score goals." Chelsea, third hut with a game in hand, entertain West Ham fresh from dominating possession against Manchester United in their midweek FA Cup quarter-final but stale for having lost 2-0. "I don't think we have to blame ourselves for the way we played," Gianfranco Zola said, "if we keep playing like we did against them I think

we can get some success." On the subject of punishment, you have to take your hat off to Steve Stone for managing to find a team with a worse current run than Nottingham Forest. The former England player did it, however, with a £5.5m transfer to Aston Villa who have thrown away their the ambitions by collecting ist one point from a potential 18. He attempts to halt an alarming descent at Tottenham.

Leeds travel to Hillsborough to meet a team who ought to provoke warm feelings in David O'Leary as Sheffield Wednesday provided him with his first win as a manager in November. That game was a watershed in more ways than one because Jonathon Woodgate got his only goals for the club to date, heralding the start of the Elland Road youth revolution.

Which is not a description you can ascribe to Middlesand Teesside might as well as be re-spelt Tease-side.

The unpredictability that keeps City alive

DEVOID OF enthusiasm and confidence, I allowed a Villan friend to drag me to Villa Park on 27 February for my annual humiliation as a Sky Blues supporter, surrounded by a noisy sea of triumphalist home fans and deafened by the hurtful sounds emanating from the Holte End and its sophisticated desire to "defecate on the City tonight". The Sky Blue supporters

have had a gargantuan share of enervating final games of the season over the years. This year will be no different. It's something to look forward to. We cannot compete with the Manchester Uniteds, Arsenals and Chelseas for the title, so we inflict our own excitement on ourselves. Adrenalin just will not flow in mid-table mediocrity. Unpredictability has become Coventry City's trademark, a win at Aston Villa would doubtless be followed by the direct of home defeats against Charlton.

City fans are proud of their collective chip-on-shoulder condition - the chairman, manager and supporters would never cope psychologically with the offer of a rematch by Arsène Wenger. It just would not happen to us. We are alone. Referees and FA disciplinary panels are part of a conspiracy to consign us to the Nationwide and even that paragon of objectivity, the BBC and its Match of the Day, finds us an irritating side-show to the hig four or five.

FAN'S EYE VIEW

COVENTRY CITY

BY ANDREW HAMILTON

After the highlights of the defeat by Manchester United, when Paul Williams, a wholehearted journeyman, was su-perhuman in his efforts to shackle Beckham et al, Alan Hansen droned through an analysis of Ryan Giggs' modest contribution to the match. There was barely a mention of Coventry, least of all Williams.

A mere 20 minutes into the match City have scored, surely just a hlip in the course of historical inevitability. A blatant penalty dismissed with an expansive wave, nothing unusual about that these days. Mark Lawrenson, well known to us as a Cityphobe, will be equally dismissive. Another



Sky Blue goal after half-time -ye Gods, how will we cope if it really happens? - the first League win at Villa Park for 105 years! Oh no... a penalty. A dive

surely Mr Lawrenson? Dion Dublin, once an icon, now "just a greedy bastard" shoots to the right as he always did for us and cue the usual posturing from the dug-out and interaction between the referee and our flame-haired manager. Their body language emphasises their lack of respect Goals from an Australian and a Dutchman finish off the hapless Villa team. It's almost safe to jump up and down.

I lose my friend in the melee but I gloat gleefully to myself as I pass the Holte End. When I arrive home, my wife and mother, not known for their sympathetic views on football have heard the incredible world-shattering news. They leave me to savour the moment again on Match of the Day.

The historic goal-laden 4-1 victory doesn't even make the three main matches. Who cares? We're happy to play second fiddle to Manchester United on such an auspicious day; as good as if not better than the day years ago when we were promoted to the top flight, and that day in May 1987 when Wembley was a Sky Blue heaven. Nobody loves us hut Coventry City will line up in the Premiership once again in five

months' time - you can bet on

room," he said, "and you'll see

They will also come face to face with a man who has twice turned down a chance to move to Old Trafford, Alan Shearer, who scored his 50th Newcastle

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Arsenal

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suggested Alex Ferguson had lost touch with the value of money when he paid Aston Villa £12.5m for his services. For United to win anything domestically they have to half Arsenal's ambition for a double FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

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chester United roll remorse-

lessly on. There was a time

when the Double was consid-

ered an unlikely prospect, now

the Treble is a concept people

brough who have made ever Blackburn's descent seem leisurely in comparison to their freefall from second place early in the season. Lose tomorrow to second-bottom Southampton

Weekend guide to the Premiership



Newcastle United v Manchester United

Last season: 0-1

IF THERE is such a thing as a good time BY BRUCE POPE to play Manchester United, then today might be it. With two gruelling FA Cup ties in four days against Chelsea - the Reds win-ning Wednesday night's replay at Stamford Bridge 2-0 - and the looming European Cup and Ronny Johnsen under treatment, though quarter-final second leg at the San Siro on Wednesday night against Internazionale, Alex Ferguson's players might be ex-

except Ferguson himself that is. The man that Ruud Gullit, his opposite number at St James' Park today, has called the best manager in English football, has hinted that Manchester United will be at full strength against Newcastle. And if Ferguson is taking the fast-improving Magpies

cused for being distracted. By everyone

that seriously, then you can be sure his players will. Ferguson has virtually a full-strength squad to choose from, with only Nicky Butt

Gullit may admire Ferguson, and the feeling is definitely mutual. The Dutchman won praise from his counterpart for his tactical acumen when the Magpies earned a deserved 0-0 draw at Old Trafford in November, and Gullit is expecting another testing afternoon: "I think they will come with their strongest team because they want to win the championship, so they need to win, and that's what my team is prepared for."

both are expected to be fit for Wednesday.

Those preparations have been undermined by the absence of defender Steve Howey with a calf injury, leaving the rest to try and prevent Dwight Yorke (right) and for-mar St James' deity Andy Cole – assuming Ferguson doesn't shuffle his pack of acesfrom adding to their 29 goals in the Premiership this season. At least midfielder Gary Speed is winning his battle against flu, while striker Temuri Ketsbaia and Peruvian Nolberto Solano, rested for Wednesday night's 2-1 win at Nottingham Forest, will be refreshed and hoping for recalls.

Submerged in all the salivating over the Yorke 'n' Cole show is the goalscoring prowess that Alan Shearer (left) offers to Newcastle. There have been voices sug-

runners-up on five occasions since the war.

than 1,000 this season.

have to conquer Tottenham to win a place in the semi-finals.

Since the war, in fact, the Cup has gone to Yorkshire only once,

Where Yorkshire clubs come out on top is in a table comparing

the fluctuating size of crowds. At the end of November 39,475

packed Hillsborough for a famous 3-1 victory over Manchester

Premiership clubs whose attendances have never varied by more

Leeds players celebrate the

which earned a victory over

goal by Willem Korsten

United, but only 19,321 came for the next Premiership game

against Nottingham Forest. Compare this with six other

when Leeds beat Arsenal in 1972. Yorkshire teams have been

gesting that the England captain has passed his sell-by date but Yorke, with three of his last four goals resulting from crosses, is proof that top quality strikers can only thrive if given top quality service. Newcastle cannot quite hope to match the skills of papa David Beckham or Ryan Giggs, but having players such as the in-form Dietmar Hamann in support will ensure that Shearer's name is one the scorers will still need to inscribe.

PREMICASTILE UNITIED (from) Given. Harper. Barton. Charvet. Debizas, Hughes, Domi, Speed, Lee, Harnam, Solano, Maric. Bredy. Georgiadis, Netsbala, Shearer, Saha, Griffin.

MANICHESTER UNITIED (from): Schmeichet, G Nesselle, Berg. Stam., Invit., Betchham, Keane, Scholes, Giggs, Cole, Yorke, Solskjaer, P Neville, Sheringham, Blomqvist, Brown, Curtis, Van der Gouw.





Chelsea v **West Ham United**

DEFENDER FRANCK Leboeuf is Chelsea's main injury doubt before the game against West Ham at Stamford Bridge. The Frenchman was taken off at half-time in the cluh's midweek FA Cup quarter-final replay defeat at the hands of Manchester United with a thigh muscle injury but Michael Duberry, Bernard Lambourde and Andy Myers are on standby. Playermanger Gianluca Vialli completes a three-match suspension today, while Albert Ferrer and Dan Petrescu, on international duty with Romania in midweek, are available again.

Paolo Di Canio is ruled out for West Ham with a groin problem aggravated in the 1-0 loss at Southampton last week, while Joe Cole is unavailable after turning out for England Under-18 duty against Israel last night. Manager Harry Redknapp will be hoping there is oo repeat of the dire performance at The Dell, or of the dressing-room shenanigans that resulted afterwards, when midfielder John Moncur, a non-playing substitute, took offence at Redknapp's ticking-off by kicking a plate of andwiches across the room and storming off.

ON THE SEA (from): De Gocy, Hiltchcock, Kharline, Ferrer, Le Saux, Desailly, Leboeuf, Duberry, Terry, Myers, Lambourde, Babayaro, Petrescu, Wise, Morris, Oi Marteo, Goldbaek, Newton, Nicholla, Zola, Flo, Forssell.

Chelsea: Vialii. Referee: S Lodge.



Coventry City v Blackburn Rovers



JOHN ALOISI is expected to be left out of Coventry's line-up against Blackburn to make way for George Boateng to return from suspension, even though the Australian international, a nid-season signing from Portsmouth, has been in good form. 30ateng scored twice against Aston Villa two weeks ago but was suspended for last weekend's 2-1 win against Charlton when

Voel Whelan returned to score. Chris Sutton may find himself back in defence for Blackburn n the crucial relegation battle at Highfield Road. With Daren Peacock and Marlon Broomes suspended, and Christian active still out, Suttoo may be the only option in Rovers' injury-in Quad to partner Stephane Henchoz. Manager Brian Kidd ago has midfield problems with David Dunn (virus) still doubtwafter missing the midweek defeat by Everton and Jason McAaler set to deputise at right-back in the absence of Jeff Kenna

id Gary Croit. Jason wheex is likely to leathre in a ceotra Ole alongside either Dunn or on-loan Italian Dario Marcolin. L'AVENTRY CITY (from); Hedman, Nitson, Shaw, Williams, Burrows, Boateng, Telfer Allister, Froggatt, Whelan, Huckerby, Alols, Sollvedt, Clement, Konijc, Gloacchini

ACCIBINA NOVERS (from): Fisat, McAteer, Henchoz, Taylor, Konde, Coughian Lyddson, Gilespie, Johnson, Marcolin, Dunn, Wilcox, Duff, Sutton, Davies, Blake ons: Coventry: Cudworth, Blackburn: Peacock, Broomes



Derby County v Liverpool Last season: 1-0



DERBY HAVE new signing Vas Borbokis available for the home match at Pride Park with Liverpool but manager Jim Smith could name an unchanged side. Borbokis, signed from Schiffield United, has been struggling with a thigh strain but is Lamed in the squad. However, he is likely to start on the bench as the Rams step up the chase for a European place. Derby moved into the top six and a possible Uefa Cup place with their victory over Aston Villa on Wednesday night.

Liverpool play their first game for a fortnight, and their only Premiership match in March today, but captain Paul Ince is doubtful with a sore toe, with youngster Stephen Gerrard a possible replacement in midfield. Michael Owen, Veggard Heggem and Steve Staunton should all have recovered from injuries sustained in the defeat at Chelsea. Internationals, plus major fixture changes, mean that Liverpool's oext match is the Mersey derby against Evertoo on Easter Saturday Jamie Carragher will oot have completed his three-match ban until the Easter Monday game at Nottingham Forest.

DERESY COUNTY (from): Hoult, Prior, Stimac, Laursen, Eranio, Bohinen, Powell, Schnoor, Balano, Button, Wanchope, Borbokis, Poom, Carbonari, Harper, Elliott, Christie. LIVERPOOL (from): James, Heggern, Staurton, Song, Bjornebye, Gerrard, Redknopp, Berger, Owen, Fowler, Riedic, Babb, Motteo, Kwarme, Fern, Friedel, Ince. Thompson.

ns: Liverpool: Carragher, E Jones



Everton v **Arsenal** Last season: 2-2



NICK BARMBY is doubtful for Everton's Goodison Park match with title-chasing Arsenal. The former England player injured a shin in the 2-1 away victory at Blackburn oo Wednesday. Maniger Walter Smith will recall French midfielder Olivier Dacourt 'ollowing a two-match ban and will keep Ivory Coast striker brahima Bakayoko up front after his two goals at Ewood Park.

There is good news for Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, owever, with Emmanuel Petit and Nigel Winterburn returning to the starting line-up. French midfielder Petit has had no action to the ankle injury which kept him out for six matchbefore he appeared as a second-half substitute to inspire son is facing a selection headache as he rsenal's 3-0 midweek win against Sheffield Wednesday on Tues prepares for the visit of relegation-threaty night. Left-back Winterburn was rested for that match be ened Southampton to the Riverside Stause of a throat infection but will now take over again from elson Vivas. Pehit's return allows Ray Parlour to switch back fellow midfielders Paul Gascoigne and is familiar wide-right role and replace Fredrik Ljungberg. phen Hughes (brokeo arm), Steve Bould and Remi Garde, h with twisted ankles, are the only other casualties.

RYON (from), Mynre, Dunne, Shore, Watson, Materazal, Unsworth, Ball, Wer, ane, Decourt, Grant, Barmby, Hutchison, Bakayoko, Jeffers, Branch, Cadamar-BENAL (from) Seaman, Doon, Keown, Adams, Winterburn, Parlour, Vicira,
Overmars, Berghamp, Anelka, kanu, Dowara, Grimandi, Upson, Vivas, Manninger, ensions: None.

... And statistics

Leeds aim to strengthen grip on Yorkshire

LEEDS UNITED supporters hardly need reminding that most of English football's major trophies have ended up on the other side of the Pennines over the last 20 years or so. Today, however, David O'Leary's team have the chance to underline their supremacy in Yorkshire when they make the short trip to Hillsborough to play Sheffield Wednesday.

Fourth in the Premiership and with a European place firmly in their sights, Leeds are 13 points clear of their county rivals. However, recent history suggests the game could be both a close and high-scoring .

Honours are even between the two clubs in terms of Premiership results - there have been five draws and four wins apiece in their 13 meetings - and the matches can usually be relied upon to produce plenty of goals. The 13 games have produced a total of 45 goals, an average of three and a half

Leeds and Wednesday are the only Yorkshire clubs which have always been in the Premiership. Sheffield United had two years in the division, while Barnsley lasted only one year. However, there are signs of a Yorkshire revival. with the possibility of the Premiership contingent being doubled next season. Bradford City are making a strong challenge for one of the automatic promotion places from the First Division, while both Huddersfield and Sheffield United are in contention for a play-off place.

In the FA Cup, five of this season's last 16 were from the white rose county, although Barnsley are now the only team left and

Leeds v Sheffield Wednesday

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Fickle fans: the difference between highest and lowest gates this season

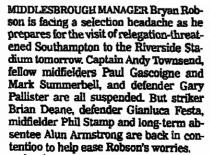
Sheffield Wednesday	20.154
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Leeds	10,190
Everton	9,828
Aston Villa	9,682
Nottingham Forest	8.663
Tottenham	7.7 a7
Blackburn	7.099
Coventry	7,092
Derby	6,979
Liverpool	4,602
Leicester	4.366
Charlton	3,555
West Ham	2,891
Southampton	a99
Middlesbrough	\$66
Cheisea	538
Newcastle	431
Arsenal '	264
Manchester United	264
Statistics: Brian Sears	

Yorkshire born and bred: A current team of Yorkshire-born Premiership players

		David Seame (Arsonal) (born Rothernass		
	Wetherall Leeds Sheffield	John Scales (Tottenham) (born Harrogale)		ert Uflothorms (Leloster) on Wakefeld)
Noel Wibelan (Coventry) (born Leeds)	David Entry (Leets) (born Leets)	Simon Grayson Jaton Visi (born Ripon)	Redfeara (Charton)) (born Bradford)	Danny Cademaron (feron) (born Bradford)
	Andy Book (Stelfted Washes (born Huddersite	(day)	Kevfo Danie (Sleckburn) (born Sheffield	

TOMORROW (4PM)

Middlesbrough v Southampton Last season: N/A



Southampton manager Dave Jones has injury worries rather than his counterpart's

dium. Strikers James Beattie and Egil Ostenstad are under treatment for groin injuries, while defenders Ken Monkou and Jason Dodd are also struggling. Saints captain Dodd has a swollen knee and Monkou is recovering from a hamstring injury which ruled him out of last weekend's win over West Ham.

Jones is desperate for his team to improve their form away from The Dell. Saints have won just once on their travels this season with a chronic shortage of goals the reason for their problems. The trip to face predicament, but he is still without four key out-of-form Middleshrough offers the

players for their match at the Riverside Sta- chance to build upon the vital three points

garnered from the Hammers "We seem to win one, then lose one, then win one. We doo't seem to be able to find the consistency we need," Jones said, "It is a very big game for us because we know we've got a chance of getting something." MBDDLPSBROUGH (from): Schwarzer, Beresford, Sto-dale, Cooper, Vickers, Festa. Gordon, Harrison, Kind Szamp, Mustoc, Maddison, Campbell, Ricard, Deene, Be

SOUTHAMPTON (from): Jones, Dodd, Benell, Monkou, Colleter, Hiley, Lundelwam, Le Tasier, Oakley, M Hugh-es, Ostenstad, Beatrie, Bridge, Marsden, Kachloul, D Hugh-es, Ripley, Moss.



Leicester City v Charlton Athletic



LEICESTER TAKE on Chariton at Filbert Street boosted by the news that their striker Emile Heskey is back to full fitness. Heskey had been suffering with a back problem but will resume his attacking partnership with Tony Cottee, who is still in search of his 200th League goal. Defender Frank Sinclair is also available after recovering from a thigh injury but Theo Zagorakis serves a one-match ban.

Chariton goalkeeper Simoo Royce is set to start against Leicester despite receiving a knock during training on Thursday, Manager Alan Curbishley has Sasa Illic in reserve should he need cover for Royce. Richard Rufus makes a much-needed return to bolster the centre of defence following a two-month lay-off with a broken wrist, but Eddie Youds is still not ready to come back from tendinitis of the knee. Defenders Carl Tiler and Chris Powell are expected to come in despite late fitness tests but winger John Robinson serves a one-match ban for his eight bookings.

LIBOESTER CITY (from): Keller, Arphevad, Sinclair, Taggart, Walsh, Elikott, Ullathorne, Izzet, Lennon, Heskey, Parker, Guppy, Gunnlaugsson, Savage, Kaamark, Campbell, Marshall, Impey, Wilson, Cottee, Oakes, CHARLTON ATHLETIC (from): Royce, Ilic. Barnes, Beale, Bright, Brown, Fortune, Holmes, Hunt, Jones K, Jones S, Kinsella, Konchesley, Mendonca, Mills, Mortimer, Newton, Parker, Powell, Pringle, Redfearn, Rufus, Tiler,

Sheffield Wed v Leeds United



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY striker Benito Carbone will sit out the Yorkshire derby with Leeds at Hillsborough through suspension. The Italian has picked up eight cautions this season which means a one-match ban and increases the likelihood that Ritchie Humphreys will return to partner Andy Booth up front. With no injuries to key players. Humphreys' starting role is almost certain to be the only change to the side despite two

Leeds midfielder David Hopkin is available after serving a one-match suspension. The Scotland international could face a battle to get back in the side, however, following the performances of David Batty and Alf Inge Haaland in the 2-0 victory over Tottenham in midweek which gained a measure of revenge for the FA Cup defeat. With Stephen McPhail and Bruno Ribeiro also fit after recent injury lay-offs, manager David O'Leary has strong competition for places in the Winger Willem Korsten should also be passed fit.

SHEFFELD WEDNIESDAY (from): Smicel, Atherton, Jonk, Newsome, Welker, Booth, Sanettl, Coblan, Humphreys, Briscoe, Stefanovic, Hinchcliffe, Emerson, Agogo, Rudi, Alexandersson, Sonnec, Morrison, Clarke. LEEDS UNITED (from): Martyn, Haeland, Radebe, Wetherall, Korsten, Wilnhard Masselbaink, Ribeiro, Bowyer Hopkin, Granville, Halle, Kewell, Harré, Batty, Woodgate, McPhail, Smith, Jones, Robinson.

ions: Mednesday: Carboné.

Tottenham Hotspur v Aston Villa

Last season: 3-2



TOTTENHAM MANAGER George Graham will be without Justin Edinburgh and Steffen Freund for the match with Aston Villa at White Hart Lane as they must both serve one-match suspensions. Andy Sinton or Mauricio Taricco will replace Edinburgh at left-back, while Allan Nielsen should play in ceotral midfield in place of the German Freund, Graham again has the luxury of picking from three strikers - Les Ferdinand, Chris Armstrong and Steffen Iversen - to play up froot. Aston Villa will hand an immediate debut to new £5.5m sign-

ing Steve Stone. The winger will step into the right of midfield as Villa seek to end a run of one point from a possible 18. They are without England international striker Dion Dublin, who is serving a one-match ban, but manager John Gregory is also hampered by injuries for the trip to London. Striker Julian Joachim has been struggling with a hamstring strain, while rightback Steve Watson (ankle), midfielder Ian Taylor (thigh) and utility player Simon Grayson (knee) are all under treatment. Grayson will be out of action until the end of the month. TOTTEREKAM HOTSPUR (from): Walker, Carr, Vega, Young, Campbell, Taricco, Fox. Anderson, Nielsen, Calderwood, Sinton, Sherwood, Ginola, Ferdinand, Iversen, Armstrong, Dominguez, Baardsen (gk).

ASTON WILLA (from): Bosnich, Scimeta, Southgate, Barry, Wright, Hendrie, Stone, Thompson, Mereon, Draper, Collymore, Joachim, Qales, Hughes, Samuel, Lescott,



Wimbledon v **Nottm Forest**

Last season: N/A

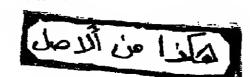


WIMBLEDON'S RECORD £7.5m striker John Hartson is due to return to the starting line-up start against Nottingham Forest at Selhurst Park. The infamous training ground incident involving former West Ham team-mate Eyal Berkovic cost Hartson a three-match ban and he then sat on the bench for an hour against Leicester last week before replacing Efan Ekoku Nottingham Forest have doubts aurrounding Richard

Gough and Stale Stensaas. Gough looks almost certain to miss out after suffering a back injury while making his debut in Wednesday's 2-1 defeat by Newcastle. Christian Edwards is on standby to deputise for him. Stensaas, meanwhile, is nursing a badly cut face and severe swelling after taking an accideotal blow during that game. However, manager Roo Atkinson hopes he will be available as Forest continue what oow appears to be a forlorn fight against relegation. Thierry Bonalair is the leading candidate to take over the right-wing berth vacated by Steve Stone following his 25.5m move to Aston Villa.

WHIRELEDON (from): Sullivan, Heald, Curningham, Kimble, Perry, Blackwell, Thatcher, Jupp, Pearce, C Hughes, Earle, Euell, M Hughes, Roberts, Ardiey, Hartson, Fear, Kennedy, Bioku, Gayle, Goodman, Leaburn, Cort.

NOTTENGHAM FOREST (from): Crossley, Louis-lean, Stensaas, Edwards, Gough, Chette, Mattsson, Bonaláir, Johnson, Rogers, Palmes, Quashle, Van Hooftdonk, Freeriman, Landon, Mattsson, Bonaláir, Johnson, Rogers, Palmes, Quashle, Van Hooftdonk, Freeriman, Landon, Mattsson, Bonaláir, Johnson, Rogers, Palmes, Quashle, Van Hooftdonk, Freeriman, Landon, Mattsson, Bonaláir, Johnson, Rogers, Palmes, Quashle, Van Hooftdonk, Freeriman, Landon, Palmes, Charles, Palmes, Carlotte, Palmes, Palmes, Carlotte, Palmes,



THE INDEPENDENT Saturday 13 March 1999

WEST INDIES IN TRAUMA P26 • CLARKE'S RICHMOND EXPERIMENT P23

Boxing: Americans question commitment of Briton's challenge for undisputed world heavyweight title

Holyfield driven by desire

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS in New York

IT IS, Frank Maloney says, the biggest day for British sport since the 1966 World Cup final In the sense that British boxers have spent the whole of the century failing to capture the undisputed world heavyweight championship, his claim should not be disdained. A victory for Lennox Lewis over Evander Holyfield in New York tonight would quieten the ghosts of the 11 men from Gunner Moir to Frank Bruno who tried without success to match the unique exploit of Bob Fitzsimmons, the Cornish-born fighter who held the title from 1897 to 1899.

Like Fitzsimmons, whose parents took him to New Zealand at an early age, Lewis grew up outside Britain. Like Fitzsimmons, who took the title from James J Corbett after five years of being denied his

TAL	ECFTHET	755
Evan Holy	der Le field i	entox Lewis
36	Age	33
215	Weight	246
6.5-	Height	6'5"
77*	Reach	84*
43*	Chest (normal)	44*
45-	Chest (expanded)	461
16"	Biceps	17-
12"	Forearms	157
32"	Walst	34"
22-	Thigh	26*
13-	Calf	18*
19-	Neck	18.5*
7-1/2"	Wrist	5*
12"	Fist	12-

chance, Lewis has been made to wait. Unlike Fitzsiramons, who weighed barely 12st and had spindly legs and a receding hairline, Lewis will enter the ring at Madison Square Garden. in front of a sell-out crowd of 19,000, looking every inch a heavyweight champion.

At Thursday's weigh-in b tipped the scales at 246lb, or 17st 8lb, giving him a 2st 3lb advantage over Holyfield, as well as three inches in height and three years in age. Around the Garden's precincts, however, not many observers are giving him a chance of adding Holyfield's World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles to his own World Boxing Council belt. Holyfield, who has boldly predicted that he will knock Lewis out in the third round, is being heavily backed to recapture a title he lost, along with the other two, to Riddick Bowe in 1992.

point out that a massive weight

rest failed? "This fight is a

advantage can be a competitive more than the other guy," he could be king of the world. But liability. In 1919, Jack Deropsey gave 57lb and a beating to Jess Willard. Later Max Baer gave 54lb to Primo Carnera, with a similar outcome. And Holyfield, the undisputed title with a thirdround knock-out of James "Buster" Douglas in 1990 and 49th to George Foreman when winning on points the following year,

certainly knows what it takes. Angelo Dundee, the former trainer of Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard, typifies Sceptics have been swift to the harsh bite of local opinion. int out that a massive weight "I just think Holyfield wants it

said at Thursday's weigh-in. "There's a reluctance about Lewis. If I had a guy with his proportions, I'd just say 'Get him!' and turn him on the guy. But he don't give you that. He waits and he looks. But if he waits and looks, he's gonna get the hell kicked out of him.

Bell rings, you should jump. Fighters mature at different stages, but Lennox has never seemed to me to mature to the point where he wants it. I think if he wanted it he'd be an awesome son of a bitch. I don't know why he doesn't want it. He

he doesn't give me that im-pression I think Holyfield wants

it more. He's a hell of a man." Those looking for signs of Lewis's alleged reluctance found them this week in the . fighter's own words when asked if he had a game plan for tonight's 12-rounder. "No," he said. "I'm just going to let the fight unfold. I'm flexible in that. This is the first time I'm fighting Evander and the first time he's fighting me, and we've both got different styles, so we're going to have to see how they adapt to each other,

how they complement each other in the ring."
Words like "flexible", "com-

plement" and "adapt" do not impress old-timers who see a softness, both physical and mental, about Lewis. He speaks quietly, is ill at ease with the hucksterish rhetoric of a heavyweight promotion, and sometimes fails to impose himself on the sort of contest he should dominate. But, at 33, he has been there or thereabouts for a long while, and only Oliver McCall has got the better of him, in a defeat avenged three years later Drawing a line through the

unenlightening task. Lewis beat Bowe for the super-heavyweight gold medal at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, whereas Holyfield lost a best-of-three series to a Bowe whose true quality was soon to be questioned Both Lewis and Holyfield took points decisions over Ray Mercer. Holyfield's credibility rests on his two defeats of Mike Tyson. an achievement Lewis can match only by winning tonight.

two men's form is a brief and

Can he do it, where Jem Roche, Don Cockell, Brian London, Henry Cooper, Joe Bugner, Richard Dunn and the

Macca is left out in the cold

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NEXON

STEVE MCMANAMAN is not being considered by his manager Gérard Houllier and could have played his last bound for Real Madrid a end of the season, will not be in the squad for today's match

with Derby County. McManaman had initially been left out of the team, but his latest drastic step sugge Houllier is planning for the future without him.

It is an unfortunate conse quence of the Bosman transfer ruling that players can sign in advance of joining their new chiles and before their contract expires with their current employers and McManaman has quickly discovered then problems that can

The supporters had criticised him, but Houllier's latest action is more devastating. Left out of the team, McManayan may find his possibility of England recall under Kevin Keegan more remote.

Marseilles want Nicolas Anelka and are prepared to pay £10m for Arsenal's teenage French striker, but the club's president, Robert Louis-Dreyfus, admitted he could not match the wages Anelka could earn elsewhere, even if the player was interested in joining the Mediterranean club.

Joe Kinnear has left the Sheffield hospital where be had been since his heart attack last week. The Wimbledon manager spent seven nights in the cardiac ward of the Northern General after being taken ill shortly before the Dons' game with Sheffield Wednesday

The 52-year-old Dubi was kept under observa but has been given the allhome. Wimbledon take on Nottingham Forest in the Premiership at Selhurst Park

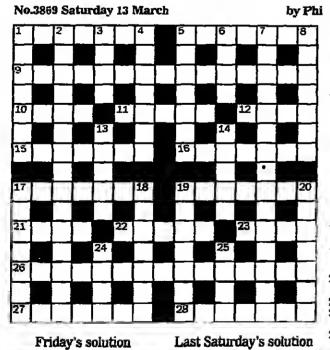
erning body, has refused to ac-cept Mexico's bid to host the Holyfield, by decision.

Lewis faces defining moment, page 22

2006 World Cup finals because the documentation arrived well-after the deadline date.

a year.

THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD



Back usuc, evailable from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370

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Mineral containing silver and a hit of lead Get possession of fashionable girl with

sex-appeal (7)
Kissing face, having little time to spare (7,3,5) One from Northern region circuit, we hear (4) & 14 down Cricketer's

fatuous comment (5,5)
12 Surprise on turning 19? 15 Angry about article's expression of defiance (2,5)
16 Currently male's in hospital - he's full of cold! (7) Chap had died in vehicle

in Somerset village (7) Bowled not caught in schoolboy game? That's crazy (7) Character's heartless expression of lust (4) See 13 down

23 Country animal identified, though only partly (4) 26 Germ. art mounted stirring grand opera (15)

Pick deity as heroine of Greek drama (7) Like some car-deals? Hurry back to get one

DOWN

Appear upset when left inside due to illness (7) Takes on a difficult spot of weeding? (6,3,6)
3 Solid cake, without

topping (4)
The Parisian's draping
upper room in mesh (7) I note Henry has booze takes draughts? (7)
Mercenary work to

access computer systems (4) Wandering roamer out wandering trainer out taking in mellow, pleas-ant ambience (4,11) Stuffed, having eaten (5,2) & 22 across Set a person to probe the writer's

source of expenses? (5,5) 14 See 11 across
17 Company without associates importing good scent from Germany (7)
18 Welsh area had no little

road dug up (7)
19 Worker on train
redesigned support for the stout (4-3) 20 A little insect is kept in tin (7)

24 Courteous chap giving information on time (4) 25 Against getting age from a woman (4)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardhacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: E Barrick, Liscoln, N Datta, W4; R Thornton, Eastbourne, E Looby, Northfield: T Gadd, Terrington.

IN MONDAY'S 12-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

Richard Williams reports from New York on Holyfield versus Lewis



Graham Kelly (left) on football's grounds for optimism Plus Glenn Moore on football, Chris Hewett on rugby and Brian Viner

NEXT WEEK: THE GLORY OF CHELTENHAM

Richard Edmondson and Greg Wood, two of racing's most knowledgeable and entertaining writers, mark your card for the National Hunt festival

Andrew Longmore and Ken Jones on the drama and colour of a great sporting event



Jamie Osborne (left) gives a jockey's view from the weighing room, while 'Dodger' McCartney, a professional punter, pinpoints the horses to

Plus our exclusive racecards, featuring runner-by-runner form guides for every race, and where to find the best betting value

as many times as you like from

mystery to everyone, including

me," his trainer, Emanuel

Steward, said this week. But

may hold, the head says it is

whatever dreams the heart

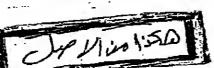
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NEXT PRESIDENT?

PROFILE, PAGE 5

FROM GLOUCESTER WITH LOVE: THE PERFECT PORKER

COUNTRY, PAGE 17



ON THE ROAD TO MARRAKESH, BY FRANCINE STOCK

TRAVEL, PAGE 19



Matthew Kelly with, L to R, Ricky Maxwell as Tony Rich, Becky Goodwin, Joanne Palfery as Joan Osborne, Chris Nott as David Essex, Steve Murray as Dennis De Young

The Spear old Dream otalom menting

They don't fix their Barry Manilows up with false noses. They won't let men do Shirley Bassey. And don't even dream that they'll let you be a Black-and-White Minstrel. Welcome to Stars in Their Eyes, the weirdest show on television

Scouser, is so nervous that he "could do with a Valiam's andwich". A few years ago, Neil Diamond had a terrible panic attack. And Kate Bush went down with laryngitis.

Meanwhile, LeAnn Rimes is silent. She is only and therefore has to have a chaperone, Patsy, who highly of two previous charges, Jimmy Osmond, and Michael Jackson. "Michael Jackson in the latter of t

This fight a .

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THE INDEPENDENT

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FOOTBA BY ALAN NIXON STEVE MCMANAMAS being considered by ager Gerard Houles have played his lang Liverpool The form bound for Real Main end of the season vi the squad for today with Derby County McManaman ha been left out of the be latest drastic step: Houllier is pl future without him It is an ur quence of the Bos urquië quat bjakezen vance of joining there and before their conwith their current car McManaman has pecovered then problem The supporters essed lum, but Hode action is more dead out of the team, may find his post England recall on Kerry an more rene Marseilles was Arrelles and are proces flor for Arsendis French striker but president, Robenta tus admitted be a With the wager bemen elsewhere ex all INC Was migrested the Mediterraneand down Kennegr has Shetticht bestehte.

> la er. sinebihmæ MIN'S TO WELLTON and was an aide to the Action was the Korthern The San Paris harmon has got The design of the second

the last less game? to be seen to be Wantiedocab terration Forest &

comforting arm around his an hour before showtime. Tony Rich is confident. Den-

Charley and has distanced herself from the backthe stage camaraderie. The night before, LeAnn went
the other while Desired to be with her family while Desired to be with he the others socialised in their Manchester hotel.

They were warned not to get too. They were warned not to get too merry, though,

avid Essex is worried about and were told the cautionary tale of Robbie Williams accountants, a man and a woman who had apparhis West Midlands accent, but Alison Moyet puts a but Alison Moyet puts a Manilow, nobody can quite remember—who got back the sufficiency of the puts a dos musical director Ray Monk, "a leggy 17-yearend of the place and the other end of the puts, is Loretold blonde came to de blonde came to do to his room at 5am, legless. "He was just about OK shoulders and tells him he'll by the time we did the show," recalls the executive producer of Stars in Their Eyes, Jane Macnaught. "But he didn't win. He pissed his chance away."

I am a late convert to Stors in Their Eyes, having long sneered at the show as jumped-up karaoke. It doesn't particularly help to learn that the format was born in Holland as Heini Houssmann's Sound Mix Show. And being unfamiliar with half the acts doesn't help either. My knowledge of popular music is shaky, and in any case covers only the years from Abba to Wham! Besides, my children aren't yet old enough for me to form even a vicarious interest in Top of the Pops. So unless a contestant strides on to meet host Matthew Kelly, and says "Tonight, Matthew, I'm going to be Tinky-Winky," the chances are that I won't know whether the performance is any good. Who are Dennis De Young and LeAnn

Rimes, anyway? And yet, Stors in Their Eyes has gradually sucked me in. It was a show a couple of series back that kindled my interest, when a pair of rather square

the hell did they find out that they could sing together like Peters and Lee? What motivated them? Would they start, on the back of their TV appearance, a Peters and Lee tribute act... or just return quietly

to their spreadsheets? Tonight, Matthew, Stars in Their Eyes embarks upon its 10th series. It has become a cultural phe-

BY BRIAN VINER

nomenon. Every year, upwards of 40,000 people contact Granada Television, asking for application forms. Last year's celebrity show, which featured Carol Vorderman as a slightly dodgy Cher, was ITV's highest-rated light entertainment programme for

Meanwhile, not even Granada's most senior executives are beyond indulging their pop star wannabe fantasies on stage. Somewhere, probably at the back of a safe, there is a videotape featuring Charles Allen, the company's dour chief executive,

Cork. She had never heard of Stars in Their Eyes, nor had she ever been out of Ireland, but was en-tered by her sister, and features in the forthcoming series as a startlingly good Patsy Cline.

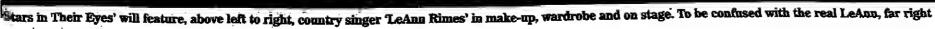
The process of finding contestants begins every July, shortly after the grand final of the previous series. Applicants send in cassettes of themselves singing, and the awful ones are weeded out, as are the suspiciously good ones - more often than not they turn out to be the real person performing. Last vear dozens of Celine Dions applied, following the success of Titanic. "Obviously it reflects fashion," says Jane Macnaught. "When Ghost came out, with the Righteous Brothers on the soundtrack, we had

lots of Righteous Brothers." Having whittled the 20,000 or so applicants down to 900, Macnaught and her colleagues go on the road to conduct auditions. Sometimes, singers are persuaded to change their act. Freddie Mercury became Jarvis Cocker. And, even more bizarrely, Andrew Strong, of The Commitments fame, became Sacha Distel. "In Glasgow last year,"

well, but she looked the spitting image of Twiggy and we see hundreds of Madonnas but no Twiggys. So we suggested that she did Twiggy instead, even though she'd never heard of her. We always get a huge number of Neil Diamonds and Roy Orbisons. and we had thousands of Elvises in the early days, but we got them all out of the way with an Elvis special. We usually have a massive surplus of Karen Carpenters, one or two of whom unfortunately turn out to be size 24s."

A striking physical similarity is not a criterion. but a passing resemblance helps, for it can usually be accentuated by Granada's make-up queen, Glenda Wood. "I've been doing this for 36 years," says Wood, as she slaps foundation cream on David Essex. "I've made up four Prime Suspects, four prime ministers and Dustin Hoffman. But this show is my favourite. I haven't a clue who they are. Doris Day and Ruby Murray, that's my limit. But they're a lovely lot. Neil Diamond let us shave his bead, but we nearly had a disaster with Stevie Won-der, because his beads pulled his bald cap back." Continued on page 2

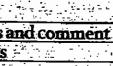






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Obituaries ____ Arts

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TOMORROW IN THE INDEPENDENT **ON SUNDAY**

REVIEW



Rachel Weisz explains why the paparazzi don't love her any more

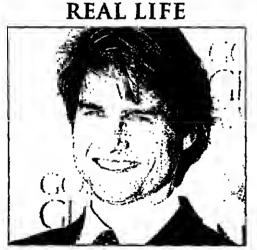


Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall on the perils of eating fish

CULTURE



Charlotte Rampling asks what's wrong with making Miss Havisham sexy



Why men who look like this get all the best jobs

PLUS Alain de Botton Simon Singh AN Wilson **Brian Viner**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clurity

Budget losers

Sir: Gordon Brown's Budget has hit motorists once again. The average motorist will pay an extra £50 a year in fuel

tax, but it will be the less welloff, drivers of diesel cars and rural motorists, who will be hardest hit. While most motorists will pay an extra £5 for their tax lisc, Labour's plans to tax

more heavily large-engined cars ignored the environmental friendliness of different cars. Some large, well maintained engines are much less polluting than older, smaller, m-maintained engines. The £25m road tax on

lorries and the 33p per gallon on diesel will hit all of us as consumers because they will raise prices. It will also hit us all because the revenue will lose income as more lorry operators licence their vehicles in Europe and fill up over the Channel.

Research shows that petrol prices would have to treble overnight to force people out of their cars. If sticks are to be used to get us out of our cars, carrots need to be in place first. Dr ROBERT R F KINGHORN London W4

Sir: Recently, a Royal Commission recommended a scheme to support the elderly in reasonable care, with expenses split between the state and the individual. The estimated cost of fibn was too much for the Government "More consideration" was needed, which is politicospeaking for shelving it. Within weeks, the

Government announced tax levels of 10 per cent and 22 per cent, costing 22bn and 22,8bn respectively. Your Budget Review (10 March) showed smiling faces, but not from the 40.000 people a year forced to sell their homes to provide for their care. Perhaps they have nothing to smile about, after being stripped of the only asset which they have saved for their old age?

This government was elected to get away from this towards the elderly does not move them, they should consider that the sons and

daughters of the 40,000 have votes to register their disgust in the forthcoming elections. WRHAINES Copthorne,

Cheshire

Sir: The Hallett's total weekly income appears to be about £314 (allowing £28 per week from dividends) yet they claim to be badly done by ("Some savings - but more were needed").

Their "outgoings are minimal" and they "can live and eat". What do they eat, lobster and caviar? They can "pay electricity and gas bills". everything on full blast 24 hours a day? Perhaps if they cut down on their extravagant lifestyle they could repair the house and huy a new TV.

There are many families with both children and maximum outgoings living on the Hallett's income. The truth is that the Halletts, like many others with a morethan-adequate pension, are just plain greedy and expect people that work to fund a preretirement lifestyle. DE BUCKLEY Knaresborough, North Yorkshire

Sir: In the wake of the Chancellor's family Budget could we now have an honest debate about the assumed virtues of the family?

Is it the case that couples who produce children are really thinking about the benefits which they are bringing to society? Or are they just satisfying themselves when they procreate?

If the latter, why should they be thought more deserving than the single and childless? Should we not be thinking of discouraging large families by the tax regime (as in the US) instead of

encouraging them? What was there in the Budget for the single and for childless couples? E WILLIAMS Altrincham. Greater Manchester

Sir. "The elderly disabled and rural residents are totally dependent on the car" declares the RAC in a heartrendingly emotional

response to Budget fuel price Debt waste rises ("Buy smaller car," drivers are warned").

really troubling its new owners so heavily, perhaps they might consider offering their services free to these needy groups, crosssubsidising this by raising charges to young, fit townies. Or, if they are really serious. they would be negotiating with government for direct

If the RAC's conscience is

subsidies to groups in need. I do not suppose, however. that husiness or political logic will appeal to the professional whingers who make up the motor lobby. My RAC subscription renewal wall go into the bin. PETER D BROWN London N1

Sir. This year's Budget has outlined plans for government to contribute £30 to every donation of at least £100. It has also encouraged corporate donations by reducing the level for gift aid from £250 to £100, and encouraging give-

as-you-earn. The Children's Trust, however, is disappointed that the Government has not seen fit to ease the burden of irrecoverable VAT In 1998 we were unable to recover £125,000 on costs incurred providing services to profoundly disabled children.

We hope that the Government will reconsider JADICK The Children's Trust Todworth, Surrey

Sir. The Government's latest tax increase, which puts 17.5p on a packet of 20 cigarettes, will devastate low-income smokers and force more people into dishonestly huying cheap smuggled cigarettes.

The Chancellor is flying in the face of economic reality. He admits it is a tax he cannot property collect yet he continues to increase it.

How long will it be before the Government realises that reducing tax is the only way to stop this social and economic chaos? KENNETH TORRICKE BARTON

Fair Cigarette Tax Campaign Tonbridge, Kent

Sir. Last time round, Comic Relief raised about £26m for UK and Third World charities. Sub-Saharan Africa repays that much in debt repayments to the West every day.

For every pound this country gives in aid to Third World countries, it takes £3 back in debt repayments. Cancelling Third World

debt would not cost this government a significant amount. The Jubilee 2000 campaign has said that the total cost of its debt relief proposals is only as much as the USA spends on going to

the cinema each year. The Treasury is not expecting to ever receive the money back, and has made arrangements so not be missed. ALASTAIR TOMLINSON

Depression hope

Sir: As a lifelong supporter of Liverpool FC I was vociferous in my condemnation of Stan Collymore during his time at Antield. As a sufferer from depressive illness I have greater empathy with him as I read of events at Aston Villa ("Collymore 'should be in hospital' say doctors", 10 March).

I too have been told by my employer that my recovery is not proceeding as rapidly as they require. Timescales for recovery are to be measured in months or years, not days or weeks. This is as hard to accept for the sufferer as for

As a society we have a serious issue to face in the causes and effects of depressive illness. Provided sound medical advice confirms the diagnoses, it is imperative that the sufferer be given maximum support and minimum pressure.

Like Collymore I fervently hope to be able to fully resume my career, but medication and cognitive therapy coupled with a reduced workload is the only way forward Aston Villa will get their

striker back in the form they

want if they show genuine understanding and patience now. If you have a broken leg people see the problem and djust their approach.

Depressives usually appear "normal" and this is taken as indicating that no problem exists. I would join Collymore, and many others, in a plea for greater openness, awareness and understanding. We are not chariatans, but

ill people in need of support. and treatment. We can, and many will, fully recover. Name and address supplied

Feminist challenge

Sir: Jennifer Worth suggests that 48 per cent of top nursing posts are filled from the 7 per cent of nurses that happen to be male because "the vast majority of women want and need to be dominated by men' (letter, 11 March).

What nonsense - the problem with women is that they want and need to dominate their families, and are willing to forgo domination of their

workmates to achieve this.

The majority of women have children and immediately seize primary responsibility for childcare, resenting any handover of this to their partners. The extra commitments

that come with senior management are unattractive because they reduce the mother's presence and influence at home.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that women accepting promotion while their children are small often do it out of insecurity or lack of assertiveness - to "pull their weight" after taking time off or because they fear redundancy or loss of "highflyer" status.

The more secure or assertive will turn promotions down or reduce their hours as far as financially possible to spend more time at home. As the father's status at home is reduced to a supporting role, promotion over his workmates becomes a major attraction.

The fact is that men, who don't have much to do at home, pick up the senior jobs

that women are too husy to do. It has little to do with any discrimination by men against women or any need by women to be bossed about by men.

The challenge for feminists is; how do you get women to choose senior management over control of childcare and the home? KATHERINE KIRK

Sir: Jennifer Worth is quite misguided in her concept of feminism

Feminism is not about making men and women the same hut about making them equal.

Women are not dominated by men; it is the structure of our society that values the skills and abilities of men more than those of women.

So until nurses are recognised and recompensed as equal to, say, accountants, the feminists will continue to scream about it. CAROLYN EAGER London E15

IN BRIEF

Sir: Tony Banks' likening of William Hague to a foetus was doubtless meant to provoke laughter (You ask the questions, 10 March). But that wasn't what caused offence to people. It was the tasteless jibe about abortion that accompanied it. MIKE FARISH London SE13

Time

4 . 1 . A .

Sir: Paul Freeman asserts that "foxhunting is a sport" (letter, 12 March)

I'll accept this when I turn to the sports page and see a headline along the lines of "Foxes beat hunters 11-8". PAUL ROBERTS Son Francisco, California

Sir: If John Gale (letter, 10 March) really is unable to distinguish "one end of a combine harvester from another". I urge him never to stand "behind" one - lest he hecome a seriously modified crop. MICHAEL T PHILLIPS Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Stars in their minds

Continued from page 1

It is no wonder that each series of Stors in Their Eyes costs Granada around £2m. The wigs are made to order, and cost up to £1,000 apiece. Beards cost £350. Very little expense is spared with costumes (Carol Vorderman's leather top, commissioned from the chap who made Uma Thurman's catsuit for The Avengers, cost £1,000). But in the drive to make contestants look like their alter egos, there is a line which Jane

Macnaught insists must not be crossed. "We don't give our Barry Manilows prosthetic noses," she says. "We don't let men do Shirley Bassey, though lots apply. And we don't cross ethnic boundaries. So

we don't black up, although we do tint down. Nat King Cole was a Liverpudlian with dark skin, and we helped him on his way a bit. But you have to be careful, We've had a few Pavarottis, but we have to work hard to stop them becoming Russ Abbott comedy padded man."

In the end, the only real showstopper is the song. And because of the demands of the advertisers, Ray Monk has to ensure that each arrangement lasts precisely two minutes, 45 seconds. "That usually devastates them," he says. "Especially the ones singing slow ballads. Tony Rich took quite a bit of consoling earlier today."

refused. Some of the original artists, in fact, are admirably supportive. The real Bryan Ferry sent Bryan Ferry a fax, and not only did the real Lisa Stansfield send Lisa Stansfield flowers, but the real Mr and Mrs Stanshaving their own puppet, and it's the

same here." Moreover, record labels have cause to be grateful to Stors in Their Eyes, adds ready semi-professional, hope to use the

the original artists, only one of whom - retrospective album and a Marti Pellow Robert Smith from The Cure - unsportingly album both shot up the charts significantly album both shot up the charts significantly after our grand final one year," he says. "Also, our Marti Pellow was asked to sing to the real Marti Pellow at a party to celebrate his album going platinum. Hot Chocolate asked our Errol Brown to take field sent a good-luck card. "In a way, it's over from the real Errol Brown. And our become like Spitting Image," says Mac- Jarvis Cocker has been fronting Jarvis naught. "A lot of politicians didn't like not Cocker's tour. He starts off, and then the real Jarvis wanders on stage."
All of which begs one question. Do

most contestants, some of whom are al-Also, permission has to be sought from

Matthew Kelly, who succeeded Leslie show as a stepping-stone to fame and for tune? Macnaught thinks not "Some of Becky Goodwin is LeAnn Rimes...



them may do," she says. "But plenty are content with their 15 minutes of fame. Last year's grand final was only the second time Billie Holiday had sung in public."

It is now showtime. The audience is laughing at a warm-up man. And backstage - at the bottom of what the production team, out of earshot of the contestants, call the "guillotine steps" - David Essex is pacing up and down whispering the words of "Hold Me Close". His real name is Christopher Nott. But tonight, Matthew, that is really neither here nor there.

'Stars in Their Eyes' begins tonight at

THE WEEKEND REVIEW The Independent 13 March 1999

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But if you confront any of the sure, historical responsibility for the occasionally about the foreign media's

Today NATO grows bigger. Tomorrow it must be Europe

THESE ARE difficult times for Nato, as it searches for a new doctrine, even a new raison d'être, now that the Cold War that was the reason for its very existence is over, and the Soviet Union is no more. But we can all wholeheartedly rejoice at yesterday's ceremony in Independence, Missouri, the birthplace of president Harry Truman, under whom the alliance was created exactly 50 years ago.

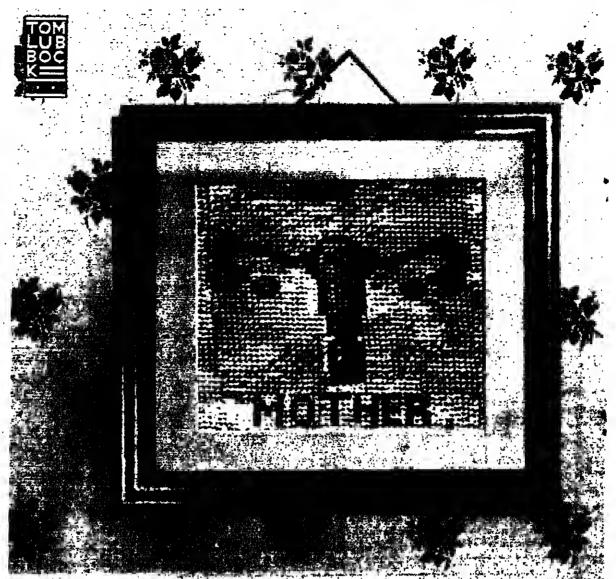
The formal accession to the alliance of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary belatedly corrects one of the great injustices of modern European history. For these "lands in the middle", trapped between Germany and Russia, this has been a dislocating and terrible century, of invasion, war, occupation and - for most of the last half of it - subjection to the alien and disastrous ideology of Communism. All three of them are now anchored where they belong, in Europe's geopolitical mainstream, as equal members of the Atlantic community. A Polish politician has described the event as the most important moment for his country in 1,000 years. He was hardly exaggerating.

But what now? Nine other countries want to join Nato, ranging from the Baltie countries in the north to Romania, Slovenia and Bulgaria in the south. The "outs" seek the cachet that goes with membership of any successful club. They are convinced, too, that Nato membership offers a fast track into the European Union. Above all, however, and like yesterday's three entrants, they see Nato as the one cast-iron guarantee of protection that they can have against any future threat from Russia.

There is, none the less, no hurry. Not long ago, the fashionable fear was that Nato expansion would draw another dividing line through Europe, to the east of the former Iron Curtain. But nothing of the sort has happened. In fact, the very gravitational pull of the alliance has made the "outs" feel safer, prodding them into settling disputes that, in an earlier age, could have led to conflict. Further blurring distinctions is the alliance's eminently successful Partnership for Peace programme, strengthening co-operation between Nato and its non-member neighbours.

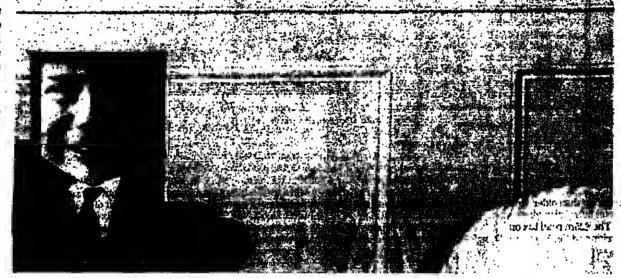
However grudgingly, Russia has acknowledged that the inclusion of the first three Warsaw Pact members was inevitable. But we should take Moscow at its word when it says that it will not tolerate membership by the three Baltic states, or any other former Soviet republics. The rhetoric may be mainly bluster, and have less to do with legitimate strategic considerations than Russia's eternal paranoia about its security. Today, as it casts around for a new "strategic concept", Nato is debating whether to extend its area of operations further afield, into the Middle East and beyond

But, in the long run, the greatest challenge will be to find a lasting accommodation with its great eastern neighbour. Currently, Russia is no threat, but who is to say that it will remain so? Scenting new contracts, the powerful US defence industry is pressing hard for Nato enlargement. But the alliance wisely prefers to use the lull to create a new relationship with Moscow, rather than indulge in provocative gestures that could bring to power a more nationalistic, anti-Western regime. No new invitations will be issued at the



*THE INDEPENDENT

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alliance's birthday summit in Washington next month. Instead, the onus is on Europe. Now, it is unfair to criticise the EU for the slow pace of negotiation with candidate members from the former Eastern bloc. Joining a military alliance is a simple and much less expensive matter than entering a far more advanced economic bloc, with all the hideously complicated negotiations that that entails. But the momentum for EU expansion must not be allowed to flag - nor the efforts that are under way, led by Britain and France, to endow the Union with a common foreign and security policy worthy of the name.

For Moscow, Europe is a far less threatening entity than Nato. But a broad and strong EU, capable of tending to its own defence, would offer a guarantee no less tempting than the one provided by Nato today.

Whenever possible, get children out of care

ADOPTION HAS been given a had name by the ideologues of the Christian right. Their message was that lone mothers, especially young, poor ones, should give up their babies for adoption rather than bring them up in the morally corrupting environment of a fatherless family. It was a harsh, impractical and morally wrong message and was quietly buried by compassionate Conservatives in the last Government. But the Tories produced no positive policy on adoption.

Jack Straw deserves praise for at least attempting to rethink policy from first principles, and the first principle in this case must be the interests of children. Once the debate is freed from the unhelpful stigmatising of lone parents, it can focus on the real problem with adoption, which is that there is not enough of it. This is not to say that children should be taken away from lone parents, but that they should be taken away from council care homes, which are generally by far the worst environment in which to bring up children.

It does not need a welter of statistics to prove that children in care tend to perform worst at school, are more likely to get involved in crime and are more likely to end up unemployed. The gap between the likely outcomes of a childhood spent in care and one spent in a family motivated enough to adopt is an enormous that the obstacles placed in the way of adopting are baffling.

So-called political correctness is part of the explanation, and it is disappointing that relaxing the restrictions on cross-racial adoption seems to have had so little effect in practice. Other excuses for ruling out adopters, on the grounds that they smoke, or are too old, too fat or too middle-class, are also supposed to have been swept away. But political correctness cuts both ways there is no reason wby gay couples should not adopt. for example. The real problem is the hostile and defensive culture of too many social services departments. They tend to regard adoption as a last resort, and use the aim of restoring children to their natural families as an excuse for inaction. Fostering is a useful middle way, but policy should be to move towards adoption rather than revert to institutional care.

If the Home Secretary concludes that he cannot change the culture of social services departments quickly enough, he would be justified in taking the business of adoption placement away from councils and giving it to non-profit agencies. The welfare of children is too important for institutional inertia to decide their fate.

The Menuhin legacy

BRITAIN OWES Yehudi Menuhin a great debt and more than a moment's thought at his passing. What he brought this country when he came from America during the war was not only considerable musiciansnip, but a real devotion to public causes and musical education. His services to building bridges with Germany just after the war, the Communist world during the Cold War, and the Tbird World more recently, required courage and imagination. Yes be was vain, dictatorial and difficult, but he was also a great humanist, both in his belief in the healing power of art and in his willingness to give his all to it. At a time when musical education at school and political commitment by artists are being downgraded, bis is a Jewish humanist legacy that we badly need to sustain.

Time to wake up to the false dawn of Africa's renaissance

AND SO another terrible few weeks for drawing of insane borders lies with the Africa. Weeks when the old "heart of darkness" cliches galloped from one for Africa; we know that the racism and headline to another, when the tenta- greed of the colonial era created a dantive hope about an African renaissance gerous mix of anger and inferiority; vanished into the rainforest and even and that when independence came the the most loval friends of the continent struggled to put any kind of positive spin on the news from down below.

ta Sierra Leone, Huta rebeis marder-ing tourists in Uganda, Laurent Kabila powers and the Soviet bloc did their arresting diplomats and locking up his political opponents in Congo, and God knows what kind of brutality and corruption across the river in Congo Brazzaville. Up in the Horn of Africa Ethiopia and Eritrea are engaged in African leaders for African problems. a full-scale war; Mugane's goons are torturing journalists in Zimbabwe; offer a measure of mental comfort, but and Daniel arap Mor's cronies are suggesting that the Kenyan constitution be abandoned and that he be allowed to run for a third five-year term.

I was going to stop with my examples there, but what the hell. Take a comes a time when the past ceases to quick glance through the Africa news on any of the wire services and consider the sorry evidence.

I see that in Burundi the Tutsi army is rampaging once again; in Guinea the opposition leader is on hunger strike in prison; in Sudan oppression and sufin the heart of the continent something engaged in a major war for strategic tends to avoid the main issue. dominance of the Great Lakes region. Nine armies and an ocean of miserable, terrorised civilians are being driven back and forth across the landscape by the rampant soldiery.

people of Africa were, by and large, left to the mercies of a new ruling class that had neither the training or the We have had thousands butchered inclination to rule in a just or compebest to destroy Africa in the Sixties and Seventies by sponsoring their favoured dictators.

But at the end of all this, we are confronted with the responsibility of To look back and blame outsiders may to the tactic of a child who has been brought up in an abusive home and blames the anti-social behaviour of his adult years on his parents. There be an alibi, and here, at the turn of the 20th century, we have surely reached

that point. The other familiar complaint is that the Western media only ever show the bad side of Africa, that we have a racist obsession with war and fering continue much as usual. Right famine, that our reporting is based on outdated views of the continent. There of the order of nine African armies are is a partial truth in this view, but it

I come from an island where the habit of murder has brought us massive media attention. For more than three decades, the news from Northern Ireland was invariably dominated by violence, the threat of violence and tyrants, they will invariably tell you that the attempts to end the violence. And it is all the fault of colonialism. For while I have heard myself carping



FERGAL KEANE

There are small moves forward, but a great ocean of suffering persists which eats away at hope

obsession with the IRA and their loyalist enemies, I know they were right to focus on the violence and the suffering. That was the fundamental reality, and it affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

Ireland's sectarian crisis was not the creation of the media, nor was it caused by journalists wanting to show only the bad side of Ireland. The same goes for the former Yugoslavia or any other troubled area. The media can distort and mis-

represent. They can make things worse. The absence of content and the oversimplification of issues (particularly in countries such as Rwanda) can create an atmosphere in which Western governments simply throw their hands up and refuse to engage with Africa. But please don't imagine that if we stopped reporting the famines and wars of Africa, they would disappear. They would be out of sight and out of mind but would, I suggest, he even more prolonged and vicious. We face an utterly depressing real-

ity in Africa. There are small moves forward here and there but a great ocean of suffering persists, which year by year eats away at hope, and pushes Africa and the Africans further away from our concern and interest.

Do you remember the "African renaissance"? Just two years ago our pages were full of optimistic words about a continent that finally seemed to be pulling itself out of the mire. Do you remember the editorials and the features lauding the new African dawn? They seem embarrassing now. How desperate we were to believe

in the idea of a continent-wide rebirth, of an Africa whose leaders would prove just and decent and whose people would enjoy freedom from fear and hunger. The era of what Wole Sovinka called the "Toad Kings" -Mobutu and friends - was over, we believed. The old monster was driven out. of Zaire and died in exile but, surprise surprise, a new monster replaced him. We wanted to believe that Laurent Kabila was our kind of fellow, a new African who would bring stability and the rule of law to the Congo. And so we refused to acknowledge his dubious past; we embraced the politics of wishful thinking.

Kabila was just another despotic crook, but to our runk to believe in an African renaissance we supported him. Now that he has started locking up Western diplomats (he has been locking up his own people since he came to power), we start to ask questions about the nature of the regime we once enthusiastically supported.

The natural answer to all of this is to point to relative success stories in countries such as Uganda, or to mention Nigeria's recent transition to democracy. But, as Nigerian history of their countries.

has shown, it takes a great deal more than a successful vote to ensure the stability and viability of democratie institutions. Just ask the people of Kenya what difference having the vote has made to their lives, or whether it has hindered Moi and his cronies as they plunder the country.

The test is not at the ballot box but among the civil servants and soldiers and big businessaun, from whom real democracy should demand honesty. Corruption, and the greed it represents, is Nigeria's and Africa's greatest crisis.

The fundamental idea that underpins the Just Society - that government must rule for the common good -has been entirely subverted in much of Africa. The Big Men rule for the good of their families and their tribe. Only when the power elites find themselves being made accountable can we truly talk of African democracy. There are no African quick fixes.

But more than ever we need to engage with the continent, to support the governments that are trying to find a way out of the mess and to pressurise those who hold their people in contempt. Giv-ing debt relief is one way of dealing with the problems of poverty, but only if we are sure that the people benefit and not live workerds. And more than anything we must engage at ground level among the organs of civil society where brave human rights activists and newspaper editors are fighting for justice. We must put our development money into grass-roots projects and steer it away from the crooks at the top. Africa is full of brave men and women, people whose dignity leaves us feeling awestruck. It is time we recognised them as the real leaders



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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The Budget • Oskar Lafontaine's resignation • Stanley Kubrick's death • West Indian Cricket • Right to Roam Bill

OSKAR LAFONTAINE'S RESIGNATION

European reaction to the resignation of Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's finance minister

HANDELSBLATT Germany

THE GOVERNMENT is in serious crisis. Schröder has won the power struggle against Lafontaine. But Lafontaine's resignation also damages Schröder. Schröder and his new to switch to a policy that encourages investments: a modern reform policy which Schröder supported in talks with industry before the election. The Chancellor has the opportunity of a fresh start.

LE FIGARO France

LAFONTAINE FOUGHT hard to obtain his position as a Superminister of Finance. At the head of the Social Democratic party, he believed himself to have the Chancellor in the palm of his hand and to be the true director of the "Red-Green" coalition, which he had tailored to his own measures. But he became blinded by his own power. He believed that Germany was ready to follow his radical policies, his last error being to recommend a reconciliation/realignment with the former Communists of the Eastern bloc. As in France, when in 1981 the socialists had come to power after a long stint in opposition, Schröder's honeymoon period will be marked by a brief shift towards the left. Now that Lafontaine has left the Government, the Chancellor, who still retains all his popularity, has room to manoeuvre. It is now up to him to make sense of the slogan, "New Centre", which he coined during his electoral campaign.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG Germany

THE POWER struggle has been settled, but we shall have to wait and see whether the winner will be able to enjoy his triumph. Even Schröder probably cannot calculate the impact of Lafontaine's resig-nation on the SPD. If Schröder follows the advice of former plified their animosity.

Chancellors, he will strive to become SPD chairman. But will the Party go along with this? Since Lafontaine's resignation comes at same time as SPD-FDP agreement on the new citizenship law, and since FDP has given signals of possible change of direction, Green finance minister now have a chance members of the Cabinet will now tremble. If Schröder has a chance of changing coalition partners, then it is now. It would be an operation filled with deadly risk. But perhaps Schröder's system of power has already collapsed.

SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG Germany

LAFONTAINE HAS thrown in the towel; he has capitulated to Schröder. His resignation has transformed Schröder's "keepsmiling" Cabinet overnight into a smoking ruin. It confirms that practically every possible mistake has been msde, Schröder kept appearing as master of the bouse, but did not realise that the house was about to collapse. It is not the Greens who have plunged this government into crisis, but Schröder and the SPD.

GENERAL-ANZEIGER Germany

THE GOVERNMENT crisis is bigger and more dangerous than any crisis under Kohl, Lafontaine's resignation means that Red-Green have lost the decisive guarantor of this alliance, Erosion of power might now begin to accelerate.

LIBÉRATION

WITH THE departure of Lafontaine, the most notorious figure of the German left fades away. Is Schröder really now the sole master of the destiny of the "New Centre"? Certainly, the departure of Oskar Lafontaine rids him of a loud and embarrassing rival, and relieves him of the necessity of resolving the contradictions that am-

This is a socialist budget

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

FOR ALL the rhetoric, this is a socialist Budget that aims to shift incentives and benefits to the advantage of the poor and recipients of state welfare. This is a perfectly bonourable agenda, and it is being carried out in a prudent and responsible fashion. But Labour cannot have it both ways. It cannot redistribute money from taxpayers towards state dependants and at the same time pretend to be the de-fenders of tax-paying Middle Britain.

THE MIRROR

THIS WAS an unashamedly political Budget with the Chancellor offering carrots today with further incentives to come, while not owelling on the disappointments in his bag. But in the final analysis this should not detract from the fact that it was also a Budget we desperately needed. He almost performed a political miracle and pleased all of the people but perhaps the Holyrood Budget has in effect done just that. No one can predict accurately the vagaries of the ballot box, but Scots drinkers, who saw no increase in their tipple, might not be alone in raising a glass to their canny cousin at No 11 Downing Street come election day.

THE TIMES

WHEN COMPANIES cannot complain and Tories struggle to oppose, Labour backbenchers ought to be suspicious. Yet Mr Brown has also managed to deliver on many old Labour objectives. This Budget represents the essence of new Labour, delivering many of its traditional aims in a sophisticated and popular way which puts its opponents in all sorts of trouble.

THE ECONOMIST

THIS WAS a budget for of all the themes for all the people-men and women, young and old, big and small, six of one and half a dozen of the other. We stand in awe of Mr Brown's vision. We question only whether . he has any idea what he's doing. He appears to forget that fiscal complexity feeds on itself, that it creates anomalies that call for all the people are pointless.



THE BUDGET

Verdicts on the 1999 Budget presented on Tuesday by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer

forth new rules and complications; that it diverts effort and resources into tax avoidall, he forgets a golden rule of public finance that he would do well to put alongside his rule on public borrowing: every tax preference is an increase in taxes on everything else. That is why budgets of all the themes

Indies cricket. (Errol Miller)

THE SYDNEY

MORNING HERALD

Australia

THE WEST Indies' perfor-

mance was so harrowing as to

leave the impartial viewer with

a sense of disbelief. Their hope

for an immediate recovery is

TRINIDAD

EXPRESS

out of their hands.

mediocre players.

Australia

LIANHE ZAOBAO

Singapore

DAILY MAIL ance rather than wealth creation. Above TO CALL this a "Budget for the family" is a wretched misuse of language, when marriage - that great safeguard of children's interests - no longer seems to matter. Of course, people don't get married merely for the sake of a relatively minor tax concession. But the allowance is just

about the only recognition by the state that marriage is something to be cherished and remains a potent symbol of official approval. In throwing that symbol away. New Labour is in effect saying that marriage is no different from any other relationship. however feckless or transient. That is a tragic misjudgement which one day may return to haunt a Chancellor who in so many other respects delivered a remarkable, if over-busy, Budget. But many will feel in his forecast for economic growth. Mr Brown has been overly optimistic.

DAILY RECORD

THERE CAN now be no doubt this is a government that supports the family. Every family will be better off and there bas been a marked switch to poorer homes with children. Gordon Brown is a Chancellor with a sense of history. He presented the last budget of the 20th century. but it was really a Budget for Britain - and Scotland - in the new millennium.

THE GUARDIAN

THERE IS no point in expanding the economy any more at this time because the large increases in public spending announced last year will only come into effect next month at a time when the recent series of interest rates cuts will also start to stimulate the economy. Maybe it's a good time for the Chancellor to take a honeymoon or something, and leave the next step to Eddie George and his colleagues at the Bank of England. Sometimes s governor's got to do what a governor's got to do.

FINANCIAL TIMES

WHAT WOULD be reassuring would be some indication that Mr Brown has a sense of the wider architecture of the tax system and the need for simplicity if tax measures to improve productivity are to work. Stability is not just a requirement of macro-economic management. If the sticks and carrots of the tax and benefit system are constantly changing, all planning, whether for business investment, an income in retirement, or even the family budget, becomes unduly hazardous.

STANLEY KUBRICK'S DEATH

The world's press pays tribute to film-maker Stanley Kubrick following his unexpected death aged 70

BERGEN RECORD

MR KUBRICK distrusted authority to the point where he moved to England in the early 1960s and made his maverick films according to his own schedule. The irony is that he ultimately became the sort of autocratic figure that his films might bave skewered. On the set, he was known as a tyrant who insisted on countless retakes and revisions in his quest for celluloid perfection. Mr Kubrick may have been autocratic, but his demanding personality created landmark films, and images that will remain etched in our memory.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD Australia.

A LARGE part of his legacy will rest on its reception. But even if it's great, Kubrick will represent an enigma wrapped inside a riddle inserted in a can

FAMILY TELEVISION

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS



of film. His successes were few but so genuine that they intimidated Hollywood into giving him unprecedented control over bis projects, which the studios seemed grateful to release and terrified to tinker with. In the end, his greatest triumph was a triumph of the will.

THE STUART NEWS US

TWO FACTS especially stand out about Kubrick. One is that be was not afraid of ideas, and the

other is his cinematic inventiveness. Unlike some of today's directors. Kubrick was not shocking, and never hland. He ious work, and the images he wrought will surely remain alive in the minds of millions for many years.

drew critical and popular praise, despite stories that were innately disturbing. Artists like Kubrick make their mark and serve their higher purpose by challenging the established order. Yet, who

shocking for the sake of being was a serious man doing ser-

USA TODAY KUBRICK MADE movies that

needs the arts to question the establishment when the establishment itself is so cockeyed? When the nation is obliged to reconsider the meaning of presidential sex to the sex of a Teletubhy, then the Kubrickian take on life is not just a disturbing vision, but a disturbing reality.

THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD

TORONTO STAR

Canada

WEST INDIAN CRICKET

Assessment of cricket in the West Indies

unacceptable.

GLEANER

BRIAN LARA is being taught one of life's harshest lessons.

following their thrashing by Australia

THE AUSTRALIAN bat. That is the instrument of his genius. He must now make

WEST INDIES cricket is bankrupt of ability and inspiration. It is not merely inept, it is as uneducated as it is uncharacteristic, and as unedifying as it is

THE JAMAICA

That lesson is the extent to which the things we covet the most can turn around to mock us. From all appearances, there is nothing that Lara wanted more than the captaincy of the West Indies. In the process be did all that be could, and some not-so-nice things, to become captain. Now that he is, he has not led the West Indies to its greatest glory, but rather into the worst ever nightmare of our cricket history.

The only way Lara is going to silence his critics is with the

RIGHT TO ROAM BILL Opinions on the Government's decision to introduce a statutory right to roam

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH it the source of his own redemption, and that of West HAD HE listened to country

people, Mr Meacher would know that landowners and farmers have never been more willing to co-operate voluintarily in giving walkers access to their land. Mr Meacher chose to listen to the Ramblers' Association and other pressure groups, for whom a walk in the country is more an act of aggression in the class war than a chance to enjoy the smell of

THE YORKSHIRE POST

country air.

THE RAMBLERS Association likes to claim that there are mil-I AGREE with Carl Hooper a West Indian allrounder: abanlions of people who want the don the West Indies team until unfettered right to struggle these matters are put right. He through heather and over unis absolutely correct not to tracked scree. No doubt there want to suffer humiliation and are a few intrepid - if not foolembarrassment by playing with hardy - souls who would derive enjoyment from such pursuits. But Mr Meacher was not ad-

THE EXPRESS

Old Labour at its worst.

dressing them. He was speak-

ing to that militant minority for

whom the Kinder Pass trespass

is still a vivid event, and for

whom the property-owning

classes are an implacable foe.

This was not New Labour, but

THE SWEDES, the Germans,

the Danes, the Norwegians and the Swiss all enjoy the right to walk over all, or much of, their countryside. It's not too much to ask that we too should have a right on a similar scale to the rights our European neighbours enjoy. If we are ever to have a citizens' Britain, with a proper mix of rights and duties, it ought surely to include the right to move freely throughout the land of our birth. Never again should we ask people to risk their lives for their country in war and then deny them the opportunity to walk in it should they return.

(Marion Shoard) MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

THE OAKLAND TRIBUNE

A PLEASANTON mother will

have to write a letter of apology to three newspapers for allowing a stripper to perform for teenage girls at her home. The party was dubbed a "Girls' Night Out", hosted by the woman's 15-year-old daughter. The judge said that some of the blame did fall on many of the girls who attended the party. None of the victims' parents attended the sentencing hearing and only two wrote their opinions in letters. The mother said she is sorry and that it was her

HINDUSTAN TIMES India

DELHI IS convulsed under a

spate of violent crimes. The other day four members of a family, including two children, were brutally killed at their Nangloi bome; a campus feud ended with the murder of a student and another student's father, 10,000,000 rupees were looted from a bank in Faridabad; an industrialist's son was shot at in Gurgaon after a protection-money demand was ignored; and two school bound children were forced into a van and driven away in southwest Delhi, apparently by their daughter who hired the stripper estranged father.

RESEARCH BY SALLY CHATTERTON AND LUKE CHAPUT DE SAINTONGE

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"I've signed Meg Ryan's autograph more times than I've signed my own. If anyone comes up and says Sleepless in Seattle is their favourite, I just sign Meg Ryan." Melanie Griffith (pictured), actor

"I'm sorry. I don't talk to journalists." Peter Mandelson, MP

"Oskar Lafontaine has been the grit in the German oyster." John Major, former

prime minister

"A lady of 92 left a message asking that I call ber to suggest how she should replan her evening viewing now News at Ten had gone." Trevor McDonald

newsreader

"I didn't spend 10 years of hard labour creating a government, to knock it down," Charles Whelan. former press secretary to Gordon

What fascinates me is how people stay married for so long. I'm lucky if I can maintain a relationship for 20 minutes. Julian Clary, actor



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It's Camilla Parker Bowles, bearing down on me

IT WAS a deal. My horsy friend would take me to a horse auction in the morning and I would take her to a food fair in the evening. She is very greedy as well as very horsy and wears a badge saying Legalise Canapés. I got very excited at the prospect of a horse auction, imagining myself rubbing shoulders with gimlet-eyed bloodstock

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agents prepared to part with mil-lions for a future Derby winner. What on earth would I wear? All the women I felt sure would look like Camilla Parker Bowles, who someone close to the throne told me recently, once said to her daily be a dear, Mrs P, and have a look for my saddle. I know it's somewhere in my bedroom." Apparently she is very untidy but I don't think it matters if you're only morganatic

"I've found a Hermes scarf to knot under my chin," I told my horsy friend. "But I'm not sure about footwear Green wellies or navy blue court shoes, plain but obviously expensive?

Nicky laughed It wasn't that sort of auction she said. It was basically gypsies selling dubiously ac-quired ponies to the knackers for horsemeat. She was only going on the off chance that she might spot some of the tack she had had stolen recently. The place was full of yillains doing furtive deals in Romany behind trailers. As for the women... "But aren't gypsy girls ravishingly beautiful?" I interrupted. Remember the divine Esmeralda whose luminous beauty fired Frollo with such impious passion. Nicky laughed again. "Hard-faced bitch-



SUE ARNOLD

When her husband ran off with a male model, she soldiered on bravely as Wiltshire women do

es more like," she said. "Just you wait and see. So I did and she was right about pretty much everything, the furtive

deals, the Romany, the women and, saddest of all, the ponies. Oh dear I'm not sure I'm going

to be able to go on with this. There was this huge trailer parked just ahead of the fleet of shiny new £45,000, top of the range, fourwheel drive, long wheel-base Toyota Amazon VX's, in which most of the gypsy traders had arrived, out of which were stumbling the smallest, shaggiest, sweetest little ponies I have ever seen. One little black fellow, no higger than a Labrador, fixed me with piteous pleading eyes. Surely these weren't going to end up on the butcher's slab? "They'll probably be curry by Friday" said Nicky absent-mindedly. She was looking at a fine big. black horse with white socks tied to a rail. "Now what's a horse like him doing

in a place like this, I wonder? Probably his owner went bankrupt and the receiver has put him in for auction. Come on, I've had enough

of this. Let's go and have lunch." And then, just as we were turning out of the main yard, a plummy voice called, "I say, Sue, is that really you? What on earth are you doing here?" And there was Camilla Parker Bowles, Hermes-scarfed and green-wellied bearing down on me. Not really, of course, but the nearest thing to it this side of Gloucestershire. I have known Virginia Gatling-Krupp for years, even occasionally stayed at her seconddivision Wiltshire stately with the usual quota of ponies, Labradors and children called Piers. When her husband ran off with a male model Virginia soldiered on bravely as

Wiltshire women do till the last littie Gatling-Krupp went away to Eton and she sold the house and moved to Scotland.

"Gosh, Virginia, are you buying a pony for Piers?" I said, confused. She didn't seem to have changed a bit. "Good heavens, no, I'm here with Jim, she said, indicating a sinister figure with gold teeth, a gold earning and a gold Rolex making furtive deals in Romany behind a trailer, How Virginia came to leave Perthshire and run away with the raggle-taggle gypsies I never found out because Nicky said that if we didn't hurry we'd miss lunch be-

cause the Moti Mahal closed at two. Bearing in mind her callous remark about the ponies it was an unfortunate choice, but my mind was too preoccupied with Virginia and Jim to think about my curry. As for the Food Fair, it was everything that a canape addict dreams of - 97 different varieties of sushi served on glass trays which flashed blue zig-zag light ening whenever you grasped a loaded cocktail stick. To be perfectly honest I'm not crazy about sushi but at least you could tell it wasn't pony. "Have you any blowfish"" a connoisseur asked the Japanese chef. No, he said it was out of season. Blowfish is poinonous, except in the mating season, which is the only time you can kill it. What's more, he added, if a chef serves a poisoned blowfish to a customer rit happens sometimes) the chef is required to commit bari kan immediately. Too bad they don't make horse butchers do the same.

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

ELIZABETH DOLE, REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

The head girl of America

"TM NOT a politician and, frankly, I think that's a plus today." When public figures - any public figures, anywhere - start disavowing their calling, you know they are seriously competing for office. And so it was with Elizabeth Dole this week, when she launched her bid for the world's top job, President of the United States.

While Mrs Dole's protestation rang a little hollow - she may not be a professional politician, but she is one of the most politically attuned public figures around there was a subtext. What she did not say, but strongly implied, is: "I'm not a man and, frankly, I think that's a plus today." Thanks to the recent emergence into public esteem of a slew of senior female politicians, and President Clinton's very male extra-curricular activities in the White House, she could be right.

In a country where the position of women in public life, especially those parts of it where real power resides, is less advanced than Americans like to believe, Elizabeth Dole has already achieved something remarkable. In the three mouths since she first broached the possibility of running for president, no one has laughed. No one has suggested that she go back to "cookie-baking"; no one has told the "little woman" that she should be at home with her family. No one has said, or even hinted, that she could not do the job because she is a woman, and only a very few have muttered that she has got where she is only because of her husband.

The evident competence - if not always effectiveness - of the women in President Clinton's cabinet may have contributed to the new climate, as may the down-to-earth performance of women representatives, and especially senators, during the President's impeachment trial. A number of female senators - including Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer and Susan Collins came to pational prominence and showed senior women politicians in a positive light compared to their often fussy and prevaricating male colleagues. For the first time, opinion polls say, the vast majority of American voters (more than 90 per cent) are prepared to contemplate the possibil-

ity of a woman president. Much of the credit for Mrs Dole's acceptability, however, is hers, and derives from the experience and professional credentials that she brings to her bid. She is also a wealthy, well-connected woman who is judged to have more than a sporting chance of raising the \$20m-plus that is the unofficial entrance fee to a presi-

dential race. Mrs Dole's CV may not conform to the conventional pattern for presidential nominees: the Senate, a state governorship, or success in military leadership. But then women's CVs, reflecting family responsibilities, outsider status and glass ceilings, often seem unconventional. Now 62, she has served in the administrations of no fewer than six presidents, starting with Lyndon Johnson (she was then a Democrat). She has held cabinet office

twice: as transport secretary under Ronald Reagan and as labour secretary under George Bush, In 1991, she left the Bush administration - which turned out to be an astute move - to become president of the American Red Cross. She spent her first year as an unpaid volunteer to demonstrate her commitment to the idea of public service-a luxury, her detractors would point out, that she could afford only because of her husband's wealth.

This week, Mrs Dole sought to banish rumbling criticism that these jobs had been just patronage appointments, where she was little more than a figurehead. "I'm no seat-warmer," she told her audience in

LIFE STORY

Origins: Born 29 July 1936, in Salisbury, North Carolina to John Van Hanford, a flower wholesaler,

and Mary E Cathey. Vital statistics: Aged 62. Married Senator Robert Dole, 6 December 1975. No children. Education: Duke University, 1958;

Harvard Law School, 1965. Religion: Methodist, Gave witness in 1987 to her "spiritual awakening", saying It was "time to submit my resignation as master of my own little universe, and God accepted my resignation".

Career: Served six US presidents. Federal Trade Commissioner, 1973-79; Secretary of Transport 1983-87; Secretary of Labor, 1989-90; President American Red Cross, 1992-99. She says: "I believe our people are looking for leaders who will call America to her better nature." A Supporter says: "It would be

difficult to imagine Mrs Dole fooling around with a White House intern." An anonymous critic says: "Her whole life has been a single-minded pursuit of power." (Website: "Elizabeth Dole's Skeleton Closet")

Iowa, and proceeded to itemise specific achievements of her tenure in each office.

At Transport, she said, she had overseen the introduction of more rigorous air safety regulations, airbags for cars, and the sell-off of Conrail, the cargo arm of the national railway company. At Labour, she had settled a long and acrimonious miners' strike, largely by banging heads together. And at the Red Cross, she streamlined US disaster relief and the modernisation of the national blood transfusion service.

While Mrs Dole has never been the beneficiary of lavish praise for an exceptional job performance, former colleagues have no criticisms of her commitment to her work or her ability to get the job done. They do say, however, that the more closely you work with her, the more difficult and distant she seems. To outsiders and political audiences, and those who receive her attention and largesse, Elizabeth Dole appears endlessly charming in a very courtly, Southern way. Despite her decades in Washington she has retained - deliberately or not - her Southern accent, which only enhances the impression, frequently alluded to, of a "Southern belle".

To colleagues, however, especially the closest, she is said to be testy under pressure, and self-contained. She prepares meticulously for meetings and expects others to do the same. She likes to be private and in control, keeping the door to her office at the Red Cross shut and requiring others to warn her on the intercom rather than turn up at her office unannounced.

Some of these traits seem to have begun very early in her life. She was born Elizabeth Hanford, the second child and only daughter of a well-to-do flower wholesaler and his wife in the pretty town of Salisbury in North Carolina, Her mother - who is still alive at the age of 95 - and school contemporaries describe a perfectionist who became desperately upset by any failure, whether it was a less-than-excellent mark or forgetting to return a book. She appears to have taken herself and her prospects, very seriously indeed from an early age, and she still does. Three years ago she snapped at a television interviewer who called her "Liddy", the childhood nickname reserved for family and close friends.

Growing up in a highly respectable Southern town at a time when young women were expected to marry and have children, Efizabeth proved an unusual combination. On the one hand, she appears to have applied great efforts to conform to what was expected of a Southern girl in terms of manner, grooming and accomplishments. There is much of that schoolgirlishness about her even today, the rather superficial cheer-leading style and bubble-headed enthusiasm that can be both endearing and exasperating.

It hardly needs to be said that she was head girl, May Queen and class president at college (the last elected position she held) and went after pretty much any distinction that was on offer. On the other hand, while she was pushed by her parents to achieve academically she seems to have been a more than willing accomplice. From school, she went to the premier Southern university, Duke, and from there to Harvard where she majored first in education and then, to the evident distress of her mother, who thought it high time she found a worthy husband, took a law degree. She was one of only 50 women among more than 2,000 men at the Harvard Law School.

She then embarked on a career in what she and her former colleagues call public service, but is otherwise known as the Washington hureaucracy - or politocracy. A junior job in consumer affairs in the Johnson administration led to a succession of administrative posts. Politically, she went from being a registered Democrat (working for Johnson) to an independent



Lady in waiting: Elizabeth Dole's presidential bopes rest on her professional credentials - and wealth Reuters

Republican soon after her marriage to and remains a Methodist - much more ality may be. As a Southern woman fight Robert Dole, then a senator for his native state of Kansas

She was 39 when she married, and it was Robert Dole's second marriage (after divorce). They have not had children. Just as with Hillary Clinton, some have seen the Dole marriage as a political partnership that opened a route to political influence at the price of any political ambitions Eliza beth Dole might have had in her own right. But such a view is probably as wrong in relation to Mrs Dole as it is in relation to Mrs Clinton. Those were different times, and Elizabeth Dole never attached herself ideologically to the feminist cause as such, despite a career that has been, in many re-

spects, pioneering. She has always used her married name and title, and supported her husband's political career to the hilt, culminating in her 20-minute tribute to him at the 1996 Republican convention when she went among the crowd with her microphone in the manner of a talk-show host, delighting and shocking her audience by turns. Sh was even said to have mapped out for herself how she would handle the job of First Lady - but that was not to be.

In the early Eighties, Mrs Dole started (working for Nixon), finally becoming a taking her religion - she was brought up the Oval Office. Her manner and person-

to the hilt.

Phoenix wouldn't come out of her

seriously. Some go so far as to say that she had a "religious experience". Belief in God and God's purpose for her is not something that can be underestimated. She carries a Bible with her wherever she goes and is said to devote at least half an hour every day to reading it, even when she is on the

campaign trail. This religious side to her character has not been without political benefits, as it has brought her followers and backers from the constituency of the religious right, which is so influential in the grass roots of the Republican Party. Just recently, however, whispering has been heard inside the party putting it about that Mrs Dole's brand of Christianity may not be fundamentalist enough for that section of the party.

The suggestion is that she may be a closet "liberal" and, specifically, that she may be "soft" on abortion - that touchstone issue for the American right. Such speculation appears to be based largely on her recruitment as adviser by a number of people regarded by the religious right as "liberals". Mrs Dole herself, however, has always opposed abortion.

Ideological flaws, however, may not be Mrs Dole's biggest liability in her quest for

ing to be taken seriously in her chosen field, she may have had to conform to certain expectations of femininity to make her career, these could include the face-lift that makes her look embarrassingly closer to 40 than her 62 years, But the sing-song voice, actressy appearance and bouncy concern can seem cloying and ingratiating and at times just plain silly.

Loosen up, you want to tell her, abandon the script that is stamped on your brain, drop the mask and tell us who you are. The last time Mrs Dole showed a flash of spontaneity was when she was surprised by a question about her husband's enthusiasm for the Viagra pill and cheerfully confirmed its efficacity. Maybe she needs a little less Prozac, and a little more Viagra?

When announcing the first stage of her campaign this week, Mrs Dole advertised an Internet website - now the essential accoutrement of any self-respecting contender for office. Unfortunately, www. edole2000.com is not quite ready. A logo with a roadworks sign says, in 11 languages: "This site is currently under construction. Please check back at a later date." Something similar could be said of

MARY DEJEVSKY

gay, he declares that there has only a gay man could have created Sharples was puritanical. Coronation Street. As a small boy, those detailed observations were men and strong women.

The legendary Ena Sharples was based on Warren's grandmother. And to play her, Warren, a former child actor, suggested a semi-retired actor who'd once smacked his boftom on Children's Hour, the formidable Violet Carson. For Warren,

THE CREATOR of Coronation though, as for most of the nation, the Street, Tony Warren, is not only goddess of Coronation Street was the quick-tempered but warm-heartnever been a closet big enough to ed Elsie Tanner, as promiscuous as hide him. Indeed, he asserts that her regular sparring partner Ena

confused about his sexuality he 1960. Elsie was introduced by Ena scrutimised men and women to see as a woman of loose morals. At that what made them lick And from time she was working at Miami Elsie was a scarlet woman but colourful And, like Bet Lynch after Modes in the Slightly Better Dress never quite how scarlet. In 1969, howborn the programme's original char. Department. She later became a ever, with the introduction of colour acters, and its staple mix of feckless model, a croupier, a launderette manager, a florist, a machinist, and she was a redhead. And her hair a supervisor at Mike Baldwin's sweatshop. Her many lovers included Len Fairclough, Norman Lindley, Alan Howard and Bill Gregory, who in 1983 persuaded her to move with him to Portugal.

For most of the Sixties, we knew

20TH CENTURY

In the first episode, in December 31: ELSIE TANNER, SOAP OPERA HEROINE

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE

television, Britain discovered that wasn't just red, but blazing red. For the colour stock, at first, was a little too vivid. The corner shop looked like Rainbowland. So Granada quickly slapped grey matt paint over the entire set. Elsie, of course, had always been Davis and Ginger Rogers, and she

Pilkington, in Manchester, but she romanticised her past shamelessly. claiming to come from County

her, she became, to Tony Warren's dressing-room. He went to see what immense satisfaction, a gay icon. In due course the actor who played Elsie, Pat Phoenix, became almost as famous as her olter ego. Phoenix was born plain Patricia

that it was just another scene. "But you don't understand," she protested. "This is my wedding day." By holding her hand and telling her she looked beautiful - in effect, by becoming the father of the bride Galway. Her role models were Bette -Rosenthal finally coaxed her down

played the part of a glamour queen In 1981 the series producer, Bill Podmore, decided that the ageing Elsie should become less glam-At the same time, she became inhabited by Elsie. In 1967, Jack orous. Naturally, Pat Phoenix dis-Rosenthal produced the episode in agreed. So when Podmore had the which Elsie married Steve Tanner, writers invent a jealous wife to cut an American army sergeant. When all Elsie's clothes to shreds, a device the time came to shoot the scene, to get rid of her tight skirts and plunging necklines, the resourceful word reached Rosenthal that

was wrong. "I can't go through with in it for the next umpteen episodes. it," she said. Rosenthal explained Pat Phoenix died of cancer in 1986; by marrying the actor Tony Booth on her death bed (with a devoted Tony Warren present as best man) she, albeit briefly, became

Cherie Blair's stepmother. Elsie, as far as anyone knows, is still flaunting her elderly cleavage somewhere on the Algarve.



THE WEEKLY MUSE

By MARTIN NEWELL



Early flowers the cherry-plum To tell the lie that spring has come, But shivers when the gale blows As down the slope the blossom snows, Across the street, caressing cars, And sows the gutter pink with stars, Which makes the local sage avow, "It's staying lighter, daarker now."

I wondered loudly as a clone Went thundering down the bridleway On BMX, without a bell, "How safe are country walks today?" A flock of ramblers striding past Replied to me, "They're pretty good. It's taken only fifty years But now we have the rights, we could Go almost anyway we want To get to anywhere we like. The problem is, young Warren here Can also get there on his bike."

Another Brit balloon comes down And adds a tad to our renown Who boldly go like Captain Kirk, "To find new ways that do not work".

In genteel Berkshire - no, don't laugh -They say they cannot get the staff, The plumber, chippie and the spark, To fix the bog, the door or dark. Since Labour made us middle class We can't repair a pane of glass Or mend a U-bend on the sink. It might be time to have a think And train some of these kids of ours In laying bricks or fitting showers Before new "Labour's" fine façade Collapses in its own backyard.

What is that distant cheering sound? Why are those bankers dancing round? Herr Lafontaine - for it is he -Clears out his desk, only to see The euro, which was lately down, Rise from its bed and mince to town, An insult heaped on injury, While Gerhard Schröder on TV Swears blind he'll miss his finance chief But can't disguise his own relief.

The other day I got the fare To take a cab which wasn't there To catch a non-existent train, Which wasn't there today again To meet the non-existent hus... Is Prescott mad or is it us?

THE WEASEL

Amazement at the Tate's Jackson Pollock drip paintings gives way to dismay when confronted with Mrs W's monochrome leanings

STALKING THROUGH the Tate Gallery at the press launch of the Jackson Pollock show, Germaine Greer bellowed at an art hack: "I'm renewing my acquaintance with a very old friend." Speaking on Radio 3 that evening, the grande dame explained that the friend in question was a massive drip painting entitled Blue Poles: Number 11, 1952, which has been lent by the National Gallery of Australia

As you may imagine, the work at-tracted a degree of pungent Aussie criticism when it was purchased for \$A2m in 1972. I too was keen to see a particular Pollock, though in my case was familiar with it only in reproduction. Another titanic example of his drip technique, Convergence: Number 10, 1952, occupied the cover of an influential Penguin anthology called The New Poetry, published in the mid-Sixties. In common, I'd guess, with many other Eng Lit students of my vintage, I became much more familiar with the colourful explosion on the cover than with the ground-breaking works by Robert Lowell, Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath and Philip Larkin (who must have detested Pollock) that

lurked unread within As it turned out, both Germaine and I were disappointed. "When I first saw the painting in Canberra, I was stunned by its glitter. It was like listening to jazz for the first time," she sighed on Radio 3. "But now it looks dim. It can't have been restored. Could it be me?" But I was even worse off. Though it appears in the catalogue, my painting never made it across the Atlantic. As with so many other areas of life (in- ridden waxings as "Lazy River" by

come, food, homes...), we Limevs have to make do with a truncated version of the exhibition that wowed America.

But it is still a tremendous visual feast, beginning with Pollock's youthful struggle to forge his own style and concluding with a room of desperate, murky daubs before his death in 1956 at the age of 44. A desperate alcoholic, Pollock was notoriously belligerent, though rarely physically violent. He put himself about as a rugged hombre, a native son of Cody, Wyoming, though it may be pointed out that the artist left the town named after Buffalo Bill at the age of 18 months.

Most of the works are interesting, but at the heart of the show are a dozen of the most exciting canvases painted this century. His great drip paintings are surpris-ingly varied, ranging from shimmering veils of colour to scratchy calligraphy. One of the largest, it has to be said is like a mouldy cheese, grotesquely magnified.
They irresistibly reminded me

of jazz. Their improvisatory quality mirrors the bebop revolution that was taking place at the same time. The exploding trajectories of Pollock's paint are the physical equivalent of Charlie Parker's take-no-prisoners sax solos or Bud Powell's ferocious prowling of the keyboard. So it is unsurprising that the Museum of Modern Art in New York, where the show was first mounted, has issued a CD selected from Pollock's record collection. It turns out to contain such deeply angst-

Louis Armstrong and "It Had to be You" by Artie Shaw.

Of course, there's no reason why the dominant artist of the atomic sge had to be a lover of avant-garde jazz, but I wonder if this CD bolds a key to Pollock's seismic discontent - that, beneath the raging exterior, he was a bit of a softy? It struck me at the Tate that Pollock's key works are often enjoyably



decorative, sometimes obviously so, as in the case of an 18-ft mural called Summertime: Number 9A, 1948. Unfortunately, "decorative" was just about the worst term of abuse you could apply to an artist in New York at the mid-point of this century. If Pollock had only been reconciled to this tendency, he could have lived a long and happy life on Long Island, renowned for the subtlety of his crochet work and the adventurous shape of his drop scones.

JACKSON POLLOCK isn't the only one who suffered traumas with paint. Our spail's-pace struggle to refurbish Weasel Villas hit a snag last week when we came to tackle the dining-room. After infinite rumination, Mrs W decided on grey, exactly the same shade as before. The only trouble is, it's not longer being made. So, you may ask,

why not buy another grey and slap it on? That's not the way we do things at Weasel Villas. What we do is scoot round to a local trade supplier and look at the grey offered by Sanderson & Co. According to the royal warrant, this is the company that supplies the wherewithal when the Queen decides to mount the stepladder and slosh on the magnolia at San-

The only trouble is that Sanderson does not supply a single grey. More like 84. We took borne 14 colour cards, each with six varieties of grey printed on them. Holding each against the wall, Mrs W squinted at the pigments like a jeweller assaying precious gems. She did not like Quaker

Maid ("too purplish"), Seacliff ("too greenish"), Eventide ("kind of blue") or Kittiwake Grey ("more like fawn"). Sky Grey was "too wishy-washy", Andean Grey was "too murky", Kent Grey was "um, I don't think so", while Stormy Sky was, bless my soul, "too grey". She dismissed the transcendental (Cosmic Grey) along with the down-to-earth (Chimneysweep Grey), the poetic (Halation - it means the halo around a bright object on a photograph)

along with the uninspired (Steel Grey), the evanescent (Alpine Mist) along with the substantial (Bastille).

After I began to display the sym toms of a mild apoplexy, Mrs W finally plumped for Early Dawn and Smokescreen. After purchasing the tins, she started dabbing away at the dining. room wall. But not, somewhat to my surprise, with one of the Sanderson paints. She was using a small sample pot of Dulux purchased before we had plunged into this agony of decisionmaking. More astoundingly, the colour emerging from Mrs W's bristles was not even grey, but a startling shade of green-blue called Fresh Aqua. Wow. It was not so much luminescent as radioactive. "Whadyathink?" barked Madame. There was only one sensible reply: "Great." Sorry. Sanderson, you've still got Her Majesty.

MRS W has developed an inexplicable taste for something called "Just Juice" She glugs a variety called Cranberry and Redcurrant Crush by the Tetra Brik. Going by the ingredients, it should really be called "Just Sugary Water". because "Water" and "Sucrose" come at the top of the list, with "Fruit Juices" not appearing until third place. However, the Trades Description Act has not been breached. On closer inspection, the words "Just Juice" are prefaced by "From the" (in small type) and succeeded by "Company" (in small type). I think I'll stick to my own tipple, which, to drop a hist, is Chateau Lynch Bages '82. That really is Just Juice.

SPIRIT OF THE AGE

PAUL VALLELY

Some cringe-free evangelism

2ft, cut from an old sheet, perhaps. And two felt-tipped pens. That's what the invitation said.

I have been to a conference organised by the Church of England to mark the end of its Decade of Evangelism. I have not just been reporting: I have been participating. Come and tell us what we have been doing wrong, they said, and then inside the conference agenda was the request for the they were doing wrong in communi-- and then ask you to bring an old sheet, I wondered. I noted with relief that there was to be a session entitled "Cringe-Free Evangelism".

There must be somewhere in the lexicon of British grammar a term for a word which produces an effect exactly the opposite of the one the speaker intends. If so I am sure that 'evangelism" will feature in the examples. To most people it conjures up images of aggressive TV money-grubbers, ardent student leafleteers or harmy High-Street puritans with placards warning that "The End of the

World is Nigh". So it was something of a relief to find that there was not a tambourine to be seen at the conference in Swanwick, Derbyshire, this week True, there was a bit of hand-waving during the hymns (something else which charismatic evangelicals never seem to

Southwark, captured with his opening joke about the ad in the Church Times which said: "For sale: Vicar wants to sell parrot whose doctrinal position he

no longer shares" But if the Church of England has to ditch prejudices, perhaps the rest of us do too. If the bit of old sheet sounded like a relic from the Church's Blue old sheet. How could anyone ask what Peter days, the commentary which went with it hit the nail on the bead. The radical message of Olive and John Drane, who run the centre for Christianity and Contemporary Society at the University of Stirling, was that to be taken seriously, modern-day Christians had to listen before they spoke. They had to find where God was already at work in the secular world before charging in, brandishing endless lists of scriptural quotations before them. Instead of trying to drag people into church, the need was to drag the

Cburch to where people are. Of course, it may be, George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, told the assembly that however much the Church changes, people would still not want to hear what it has to say. Prophetic statements against the oppressive abundance of our "two-car. two-holiday, two-video society" might not be well-received.

Even so, evangelism which was cringe-free would stand a hetter

IT JUST goes to show how wrong you understand actually puts other people chance of success. But cringing, I can be, Bring a square of cloth, 2ft by off). But there was in the air a sense discovered, is very culturally specific. that something big had to change - The session of that name was given by which Tom Butler, the Bishop of a bullish, silver-haired Yorkshireman The session of that name was given by called Ian Knox, who is an old-style evangelical in the style of Billy Graham. He offered tips on technique. It was like teaching a child French, he said, all you had to be was two pages ahead. And if you get stuck, turn to John 10 where you would find "everything you need to make someone a Christian in just 30 verses". The thing is to "use humour at the beginning to draw people to your side - but after the humour you go straight in with the lance." he in a metaphor which seemed singularly inappropriate, followed by a joke which had the virtue of being clean but the

disadvantage of not being funny. The contrast between the Drane and Knox approaches runs deep in the Anglican Church. That was evident by the session halfway through the week in which ordinary delegates got the chance to speak.

On the one side were the voices insisting that parishes are not the best way of running the Church since networks, not geography, now define the way people live. Why, after all this talk of change, said one women vicar, was all the liturgy at the conference not in inclusive language, prompting several women to walk out. The Church of England is too top heavy, with no mechanism for the voice of the weak to be beard, said a vicar from Zambia. Yet in the same room, there were many



The Church is seeking to broaden its appeal

Tim Pilston

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others still talking the language of entrapment. "You must catch the fish realise that what it has to offer is good before you scale it," said one. "If we can capture the young people, we'll also drug in the little ones," said another. Marketing, for many, was evidently just a more subtle instrument of the mis-

sionary insensitivity of imperial days. Metaphors of war like images of death, belong to an old theology, pre-occupied with accountability and blame, argued John Drane in a powerful new insight. A theology that was preoccupied with accountability and blame. What the Church needs is images of birth to prompt it to greater

concern with potential. We often say that if we could only ence in a single phrase.

get people into the Church, they would news. But it is the people who know us best, from the inside, who are rejecting us," be said. "If we could merely bold onto our own children, who desert the Church in droves, the decline would be turned around,"

His wife brought on stage a fourmonth-old baby whose mother was in the conference hall. "This is Naomi," began Olive, "she is a model of incarnational ministry." At the phrase, the baby yawned. Great idea, she seemed to say, but can't we come up with a better way of expressing it than that? It was the theme of the confer-

DAYS LIKE THESE

15 MARCH 1952

(pictured), journalist and Labour MP writes in his dinru:

Norman Douglas is dead. It is startling to realise that a whole generation has grown up not knowing his South Wind, one of the half-dozen most important and sparkling novels of the century. Douglas may well turn out to have been one of the many writers who die poor but leave behind them books that bring in a steady income to heirs. In the latter years of his long life he discovered a new way of making money out of America's wealthier snob collectors of books and manuscripts. He found they would pay good prices for the original MSS of his earlier books, especially South Wind. So. whenever he needed cash, he would sit in his Capri villa for weeks on end copying out by hand a brand-new "original" MS. There are shocks in store for those collectors when they start comparing notes; I



don't know that we need be particularly sorry for them." 18 MARCH 1550

EDWARD VI,

then 13, writes in his diary: "The lady Mary (later Queen Maryl my sister came to me to Westminster, where after salutations she was called with my counsel into a chamber, where was declared how long I had suffered her [Roman Catholic) mass against my will in bope of her reconciliation, and how now, being no hope, I could not bear it. She answered that her soul was God's and her

faith she would not change.

It was said I constrained not ber Saith, but willed ber (not as a king to rule but) as a subject to obey. And that her example might breed much inconvenience."

19 MARCH 1599

DR SIMON FORMAN casts a horoscope for the Enri of Esser's expedition to Ulster:

"There seems to be in the

end of his voyage negligence, treason, hunger, sickness and death. He shall not do much good to bring it to effect. At his return much treachery shall be wrought against him; the end will be evil to himself, for be shall be imprisoned or have great trouble. He shall find many enemies in his return and have great loss of goods and honour, much villainy and treason shall be wrought against him to the hazard of his life, because the moon goeth to Jupiter." [Essex returned from Ulster, failed in an attempted rebellion against Elizabeth I and was eventually executed in 1601.1

IAN IRVINE

A clear and present danger THE UNITED States stands at this time at the pinnacle of

world power. It is a solemn moment for the American Democracy. For with primacy in power is also joined an awe-inspiring accountability to the future. Opportunity is here now, clear and shining, for both our countries. To reject it or ignore it or fritter it away will bring upon us all the long reproaches of the after-time. It is necessary that constancy of mind. persistency of purpose and the grand simplicity of decision shall guide and rule the conduct of the Englishspeaking peoples in peace as they did m war. We must, and I believe we shall, prove ourselves equal to this. The United States stands at this time at the pinnacle of world power. It is a severe

requirement I have a definite and practical proposal to make for action. Courts and magistrates may be set up but they cannot function without sheriffs and constables. The United Nations Organisation must immediately be equipped with an international armed force. In such a matter we can only go

step by step, but we must begin now. A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately lighted by the Allied victory. Nobody knows what Soviet Russia and its Communist international organisation intends to do in the immediate future, or what are the limits, if



PODIUM

From the speech given by Winston Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri in which he coined the phrase 'Iron Curtain'

(5 MARCH 1946)

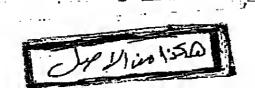
lytising tendencies. I have a strong admiration and regard for the valiant Russian people and for my wartime comrade, Marshal Stalin, There is deep sympathy and goodwill in Britain- and I doubt not bere also towards the peoples of all the Russias and a resolve to persevere through many differences and rebuffs in esany, to their expansive and prose- tablishing lasting friendships. We Germans on a scale grievous and

understand the Russian need to be undreamed-of are now taking place. secure on her western frontiers by the removal of all possibility of German aggression. We welcome Russia to ber rightful place among the leading na-tions of the world. We welcome her flag upon the seas. Above all, we welcome constant, frequent and growing contacts between the Russian people and our own people on both sides of the Atlantic. It is my duty bowever, for I am sure you would wish me to state the facts as I see them to you, to place before you certain facts about the present position in Europe. From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste

in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent, Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe, Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in many cases, increasing Athens alone is free to decide its future at an election under British, American and French observation. The Russiandominated Polish government has been encouraged to make enormous and wrongful inroads upon Germany, and mass expulsions of millions of

The Communist parties, which were very small in all these eastern states of Europe, have been raised to preeminence and power far beyond their numbers and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control. Police governments are prevailing in nearly every case, and so far, except in Czechoslovakia, there is no true democracy.

The safety of the world requires a . new unity in Europe, from which no nation should be permanently outcast. It is from the quarrels of the strong parent races in Europe that the world wars we have witnessed, or which occurred in former times, have sprung. Twice in our own lifetime we have seen the United States, against their wishes and their traditions, against arguments the force of which it is impossible not to comprehend, drawn by irresistible forces to these wars in time to secure the victory of the good cause, but only after frightful slaughter and devastation had occurred. Twice the United States has had to send several millions measure of control from Moscow. of its young men across the Atlantic to find the war; but now war can find any nation, wherever it may dwell between dusk and dawn. Surely we should work with conscious purpose for a grand pacification of Europe, within the structure of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter?







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THE SATURDAY ESSAY

Will the sectarian war of arts and science ever end?



JONATHAN RÉE

When C P Snow put forward the idea of science as culture 40 years ago, he did it in the spirit of a peacemaker

WHEN CP SNOW gave his notorious lecture on "The Two Cultures" at Cambridge University in May 1959, he did not shrink from giving offence; but he tried to give it impartially. His topic was the division between the arts and the sciences, and he ridiculed not only the smug literary intellectuals with their bottomless ignorance about the Second Law of Thermodynamics, but also the dull, unimaginative scientists who thought it frightfully risky to "try a little Dickens". In Britain at least, the "two cultures" had settled into a state of cultural cold war, making complacent jokes about each other and exchanging ignorant insults. Both sides would suffer, Snow argued, and both were equally to hlame.

The hostility between the arts and the sciences was not only culturally damaging. in Snow's argument, it was also politically ruinous. The educated élites of the West were squandering their energies on domestic cultural quarrels, while the poorest parts of the world were facing disease, bunger, poverty and social collapse, from which they could not escape without free access to Western-style technical education. If the battle of the two cultures were not ended soon, the real losers would be the poor of the Third World.

Snow's solution was reform of our education system: ending premature specialisation, raising the school leaving age, and improving the "social prestige of teachers. The physical welfare of the poor was at stake, as was the cultural welfare of the rich. "Isn't it time we began?" Snow asked. "We have very little

"THE TWO Cultures" was immediately published as a booklet, and widely discussed in the press and on radio and TV. At first everyone seemed to agree with Snow, and he grew glum about his popularity: "If you say anything which happens to touch a nerve like this," he said, "you can be absolutely certain that you have said nothing original."

But even Snow's supporters managed to misunderstand him. Bertrand Russell praised him for analysing the "separation" between science and culture", for example; hut Snow's argument was that science is itself a form of culture, and not a rival to it. Julian Symons knew better, roundly denouncing Snow for presuming "that scientists have any culture at all".

Snow's most ferocious opponent was FR Leavis, the presiding genius of the Cambridge English school, who sulked for three years before delivering a coruscating lecture on "The Significance of CP Snow" in February 1962. Leavis revered literature with the vehemence of a religious zealot; to him, Snow was not so much a colleague be could reason with, as a Satanic portent that had to be banished or conjured away. Snow was known not only as scientific adviser to the government but also as a best-selling novelist. To Leavis, however, he belonged with the most disgusting forms of journalism - the New Statesman, The Guardian and the Sunday papers. Snow was "blank in the face of literature," Leavis said, and "as a novelist he doesn't exist; he doesn't begin to exist". And his advocacy of educational and economic development in the Third World was proof of philistinism rather than humanity. In Leavis's opinion, Indian peasants and Bushmen, together with *poignantly surviving primitive peoples, with their marvellous art and skills and vital



intelligence", needed to be kept away from technical progress, and shielded

Leavis's personalised tirade was published in The Spectator, once Snow had promised not to sue for libel. But while Leavis must have hurt Snow personally he scarcely touched his argument. Snow had already noted that scientists tended to be " on the left" - free of "paternalism" and. "racial feeling", and glowing with "social hope" - while literary intellectuals, whose political attitudes "would have been ought slightly reactionary in the court of the early Plantagenets", preferred to muse about a mythical golden age of preindustrial rustic grace. Leavis's reaction confirmed Snow's diagnosis; he had driven the ball into his own goal.

from the emptiness of "modern society".

THE GAP between the arts and the sciences has not disappeared in the four decades since Snow and Leavis gave their lectures, but the two sides have swapped cultural places. Then, it was the scientists who sniped enviously at the armour-plated privileges of the literary classes; now it is the other way round. Today's stereotypical leftist intellectual is not an optimistic scientific researcher, but a demoralised teacher of cultural studies; and today'a typical scientist is not a cheeky outsider but a powerful mandarin, cosseted by great corporations and courted by rich

The transformation in the relations between the two cultures has been accompanied by the rise of a new arts discipline devoted to "science studies" or "cultural studies of science". Its origins can be traced partly to Snow's lecture, and to the plea for a historical perspective on the sciences in Thomas Kuhn's The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, published in 1962, the year of Leavis's attack. At first, most scientists gave science studies a cautious welcome. But when historians began to publish reports on what scientists really do when they do science, they revealed activities that were far more disorderly, wilful, undemocratic and destructive than

scientists liked to think. Scientists grew wary about science studies, and in the Nineties, several promi-nent publicists turned against the idea that science is a form of culture, denouncing it with the same sectarian vehemence as Leavis, though for quite the opposite reasons. In books with crusading titles like

Higher Superstition: The Academic Left and its Quarrels with Science, The Flight from Science and Reason, Intellectual Impostures and A House Built on Sond, they argued not that culture transcends science, but that science - by discovering universal objective truths about nature transcends culture.

Sectarian passions were inflamed. Richard Dawkins, for instance, spoke of "cardinal sins" against the canons of science, announcing that he would rather lay down his life than allow "fashionable prattlings" about "cultural construction" to prevail. The same quasi-religious servour seized the philosopher Daniel Dennett, who attacks "fashionable literary theorists" by insisting that science, since it can be defined as "faith in truth," must therefore be the one true faith.

But those who say that science is nothing but the pure objective truth are guilty of desperate exaggeration. For one thing, they neglect the fact that a lot of science is not much good, and that even good science often stands in need of correction. They also presuppose that science as a whole must be as unified, universal and homogeneous as physics; in other words, they conveniently overlook botany, geology, linguistics, lexicography, epidemiology, criminology and hundreds of other sciences that are never going to sing along to the same simple tune. Worst of all, they forget that there are whole galaxies of truths that have nothing to do with science: the hard-won factual discoveries of critical historians, for example, not to mention the millions of items of factual knowledge that we all rely on to get through everyday life.

Dawkins, Dennett and other champions of scientific truth have clearly been terrified by something; and what frightens them is a spectre called "relativism" - that truths are essentially human inventions.

It may be that the idea of relativism as a threat to science is only a figment of their imaginations. Some of us may hold that truths exist only in relation to human interests and criteria; but that does not make us indifferent to the distinction between truths and falsehoods. We accept, like everyone else, that the world has an unbiddable natural order; we merely contend that truths about it depend on our various forms of description and understanding. We believe as strongly as anyone else in intellectual progress, in the sciences

and elsewhere. But we are suspicious of the idea that progress arises directly from the discovery of truths and the exposure of falsehoods; we are inclined to think, rather, that progress depends on making creative choices among the many available truths, and picking out those that are significant for the matters we have in hand.

We relativists will agree that, for many

purposes, no truths are better than those of the sciences; but we will be bored by fundamentalist sermons about the sacredness of "truth" in the singular or valiant declarations that it is the only thing worth living or dying for. And in the end, it may be our relativism, as opposed to the absolutism for which science is simple obedience to Nature's truth, which expresses the deepest respect for the complex creativity of scientific judgement. Painters do not have to postulate absolute entities called beauty or ugliness in order to make subtle distinctions between more or less successful paintings; nor do moralists have to believe in a monolithic rightness or goodness, as opposed to particular exercises of virtue or vice. And it might be a good day for science if scientists would take a leaf from the same humble book if they stopped worrying about absolute truth, and learnt to live with those networks of particular truths that at least give us a little of what we want.

WHEN CP SNOW put forward the idea of science as culture just 40 years ago, he did it in the spirit of a peacemaker trying to end the war of the two cultures. His suggestion has now been furiously repudiated by both sides - first by Leavis in the name literary fundamentalism, and then by absolutist defenders of science, and the battle has only intensified. Like other peacemakers, Snow may have been pouring his precious oil on to glowing

embers rather than troubled waters. The villain in the whole affair is probably the concept of culture. Back in the Sixties, FR Leavis thought of culture as a single all-embracing tradition of discriminating criticism, while Snow thought it had divided into two, though he hoped it would soon knit itself together again. But they both agreed in conceiving culture as essentially extroverted; it was our way of reaching out to others to share our understandings of the world and, with luck, improve them.

Since the Eighties, however, the idea of The writer's 7 See o Voice' was published

religious. Every group is now supposed to be enclosed in the bubble of its own culture, internally unified and isolated from others. And each of us is expected to defend our group culture and keep it pure and intact, instead of trying to expand, transform, clarify and enrich it. The concept of culture which Snow faterully pop-

It has got caught up in the politics of group

"identities", whether national, ethnic or

ularised has become an al' .or the kind of political paralysis that he most feared. The microbiologic. Meera Nanda recently described the fate of the People's Science Movements, in which up to 20,000 activists have been teaching basic science to the poor of India since the Sixties. Tragicany, they have now started to encounter violent resistance from an alliance of Hindu true-believers and selfstyled "cultural relativists", who hold that teaching science to Indians means depriving them of their cultural identity and

even their "epistemological rights". You do not have to be a fundamentalist to see that this kind of "cultural relativism" is pernicious and confused; but the flaw lies in its culturalism, not its relativism. If rights mean anything, after all, they helong to individuals, not to groups. They imply that individuals should be permitted to deviate from the norms of their group, not that groups should be able to compel their members to conform. And if people are going to commit themselves to the sciences, as so many poor Indians have done, it must be through their own convictions about the kinds of truth worth knowing, and not on the basis of the cultural traditions that prevail wherever

they happen to have been born. CP Snow would have been appalled at the fate of his idea of science as a kind of culture. In 1959, he saw little hope for the world unless every country in it was enabled to reach the same standards of scientific culture as Britain and America by 2009. It is now clear that his target is not going to be met, and his gloomiest forebodings may well come true. Perhaps it would have been better if he had kept the concept of culture out of it. In fact he originally planned to call his lecture "The Rich and the Poor" instead of "The Two Cultures". "And I rather wish," he once said, "that I hadn't changed my mind."

culture has grown sullen and introverted. by HarperCollins (£19.99) in January

BAROMETER SALLY CHATTERTON

Couple of the week?



the single, cligible man abroad. Poor Prince Charles on his trip to Argentina was snapped up by this voracious looking tango dancer. It may be the dance of hot passion, but Charles looks as if he'd rather be anywhere else but in this maseara est creature's clutches. Keep those dance cards at the ready, girls

week II? The more gentle embrace of Bill and Hillary would seem to tell a different story.

But the connubial felicity suggested in this picture is allegedly far from the truth this week. Sources have reported that Hillary can no longer stand to be in the same room as Bill, let alone on the same dance floor. No doubt the only pressing of the flesh between these two at the moment is when they

Beardless The BBC isn't too fond of hairy creatures. or so the rumour of their beardfreeze indicates That would

explain the elusive nature of comments upon the demise of Noel's House Party: when they said "we're moving on to something different" they meant something beardless. Where will this rampant beardism stop? First it was Noel, but now are the innocent but furry Teletubbies in line for the chop? Less likely, considering that the tubby (but hairy) ooes charge less and are still netting Auntie millions.

Worm of the week The aversion to



facial hair patently doesn't cross the channels. This nasty piece of work, Sheridan Booth, who struggled to win himself £500 on ITV's Who

Wants to Be a Millionaire?, not only was allowed to parade on prime-time TV with this interesting looking nematode on his lip, but also broke one of the show's rules: be is a criminal convicted of drug-dealing and animal ahuse. Perhaps the facial hair was just a feeble attempt at disguise.

Cheek of the week Recognise this chap? It could be serial streaker Mark Roberts who was making no attempt to disguise himself when he appeared on The Vanessa Shour. By revealing his naked truth to 🛠 the nation, was he trying to prove that not

everything on the programme is lake? Ms Feltz apologised on his behalf, but surely she should find him a regular slot - her ratings would rocket.



I am woken at 7am by the kids and go swimming with my daughter Kitty I plough through the mountain of Sunday papers noting the references to the demise of News at Ten. the coverage is fairly nostalgic. After the last programme on Friday there were a few tears. It meant a buge amount to us at ITN, but to weep over a news programme is a

hit much. I have rehearsals all day. It's doubly complicated due to the Budget coverage. I get home and collapse at about 10. I go to bed and have one of those anxiety dreams about reading the news without any

clothes on.

FTN's late-night anchorman Breakfast with kids. It's the usual

argy-bargy, finding books and shoes, and making sure that tights are on the right way round - not mine.

Get to work at 11 for an interview with LBC radio. More Budget rebearsals. The afternoon is spent interviewing a false Claire Rayner and dodging flying cameras. "Claire" is a male 19-year-old journalism student with a broad Geordie accent. He seems to like being called Claire but won't talk about anything other than football. It's impossible to replicate the real Budget journalistically, but it's good practice for the production crew.

I attend the launch of the ITV Evening News. The champagne is flowing but none touches my lips, if anything goes wrong tonight I don't wake the baby. I read How to Windwant the slightest question-mark surf in a Weekend until I bore over alcohol being involved. .

MY WEEK

DERMOT MURNAGHAN, PRESENTER OF ITN'S 'NIGHTLY NEWS'

At 9pm, I go into make up, final Tuesday rehearsals and then bingo! After the The Budget looms. I must rememgestation period of an elephant. there is a real sense of "let's go". I have "don't mess up" imprinted on and not about Alan Shearer. I have my eyelids. I feel very responsible as so much effort has gone into this. I get home and find that I can't Budget measures. When the switch off. I've got too much adrenaline. I lie in bed tossing and turning but decide to go downstairs so I don't myself to sleep.

ber to ask the real Claire Ravner questions about the health service to hang around for the two-way with Trevor McDonald on the main overnight figures arrive, everyone is pleased to find that the Evening News has beaten the BBC, the Nightly News has reached 3.5 million. We have the unknown slot, so are well pleased.

I'm beginning to feel a little frayed around the edges, so I go for a walk on Hampstead Heath. It is nice to see some daylight after being locked away for hours in the dungeons of ITN. I get to the office at lunch time, glad to have the Budget out of the way so I can now focus on the Nightly News. The evening goes quickly because I have to do a oneminute hulletin at 10pm. We are all tired by day three and rush to leave, eager for our beds.

Thursday

I do the school run in my pyjamas. I'm not worried about being recognised in a car full of seven-year-olds singing along to Robbie Williams, In tickets. defiance of John Prescott's ruling, I add to the traffic jams on Holloway

Road, I go back to sleep for a few hours before going to the gym. I need to get some blood pumping through my limbs. I arrive at the office to hear news about the ratings. This proves that people will stay up to watch the Nightly News if the programme before it is good enough.

More school runs. Today it's The Corrs and the added accompaniment of squeaking red noses. My mornings are like most people's evenings. I usually just lie around and read the papers. It's like being unemployed, without the economic downside. Today I have to pay the bills and, of course, the parking

INTERVIEW BY DAISY PRICE



Peace in the wasteland

Famine and war have killed two million in Sudan. What can a tribal conference in the bush hope to achieve? By Steve Crawshaw

he tethered white bull, with its buge, grace-fully curved horns, has an uneasy sense that this is no ordinary day. It paws the ground and tosses its head impatiently, as the beating of a plastic-canister drum and the singing of the crowds get insistently louder. Perhaps it has an inkling of its fate; this hull is doomed for a high cause. Villagers have gathered for a remarkable meeting in the hungry wasteland of south Sudan. They bope that the death of the hull will help hring an end to a loog and deadly war.

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The crowd presses forward to goad the animal, tweaking its tail or The teasing ritual, in the middle of the hush in the Sudanese province of Bahr el Ghazal - the area worst hit by last year's famine - begins an hour after sunrise, and continues for a full two hours. "You die so that we can have peace!" shout the crowd.

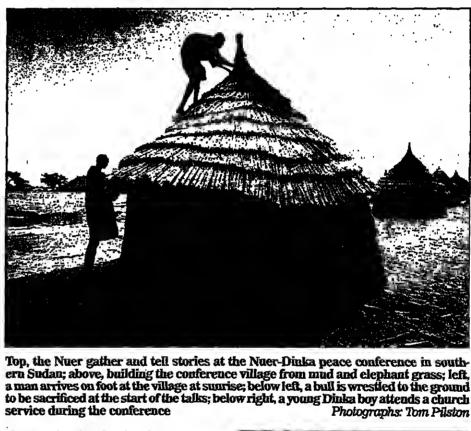
A tribal chief, dressed in a safari suit with a gold-braided black hat, declares: "Anybody who fights again will go down like this bull." The spearmasters move in for the final act. A knife across the throat: a spear into the open, spurting wound; cries of jubilation. A dull-red crescent of blood soaks into the dusty ground. The bull thrashes a few times more, and finally lies still.

This grisly Sudanese death in the morning was intended to serve a bigger purpose: to help people stay alive. The history of the conflict is horrific. Almost 2 million Sudanese are reckoned to have died in the south in recent years through a mixture of war and famine, usually ignored by the rest of the world. The famine that devastated the region last year, when 50,000 died in just a few months, briefly brought the international spotlight on to Sudan, especially Bahr el Ghazal. The famine was partly triggered - and its effects were immeasurably worsened - by the almost invisible war. The Sudanese hope that if the death of the bull serves its intended purpose, then perhaps these will not be dving-fields in years to come.

The ritual slaughter was iotended to create good omens for the extraordinary peace talks that took place between the two main tribes of southern Sudan, the Dinka and the Nuer. The peace meeting, brokered by the New Sudanese Council of Churches, went almost unreported: no press conferences, no international news agencies, no camera crews. This month's week-long conference in remote south-west Sudan could, however, have important implications for the region.

The general secretary of the New Sudanese Council of Churches, Haroun Ruun, describes this as "a rare chance" and "an historic event". Certainly, the delegates are taking it seriously. Many walked for days to get to the meeting, in a region where vehicles are scarce or 000-existent. Others were flown in on planes specially chartered by the Council of Churches, landing on a nearby airstrip (ie, an open and more or less flat piece of ground), then travelling by lorry or on foot to their destination.





ern Sudan; above, building the conference village from mud and elephant grass; left, a man arrives on foot at the village at suurise; below left, a bull is wrestled to the ground to be sacrificed at the start of the talks; below right, a young Dinka boy attends a church Photographs: Tom Pilston





An eotire purpose-built village a south Sudanese Milton Keynes, as it were - has beeo erected. Dozens of brand-oew toukel, the traditional round huts of the region, are scattered between the trees. In the coofereoce hall - a loog, low mud building, thatched with elephant grass - long boughs are laid in line for use as delegates' benches.

In many respects, this is very different from any other peace conference. Dress code is seriously mixed. Some are in ancient suit and tie; some are in traditional garb; many outfits are eclectic combinations - baseball cap and ceremonial fly-whisk, bishop's purple shirt and trainers, T-shirt ("Futureworld: Niagara's largest indoor entertainment centre") and robes.

oo shortage. People regularly get to their feet and sing. After a minute or five, everybody sits down again, and the proceedings resume as though oothing had happened.

The proceedings are polite: when one side disagrees, there are rarely any interruptions, just a murmuring of discontent - followed by a retort that afternoon or the next day. Oh, for the Stormont talks on Northern Ireland, or the Kosovo talks at Ram-

bouillet, to have been so civilised. If the peace agreement sticks, the implications could be considerable. Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, courted controversy when she was sceptical about last year's Sudan famine appeal: she argued that the buck stops with local politicians who worsen the Applause is usually in the form of famine, not least by refusing to musical interludes, of which there is allow aid convoys through. Aid committed terrible crimes. Every-

ageocies working in the south retorted that starving people need emergency aid, whatever the immediate causes of their hunger may be. None the less, few dissent from her core point: that politics and war are at the root of the evil. If politicians can be forced to compro-

mise, then much else will follow. Peace between Nuer and Dinka seemed an impossible challenge. Relations have become increasingly bitter Traditionally, it was just a matter of the occasional cattle raid, with few casualties. But things got much worse in the past few years. As one Dinka puts it: "We used to attack each other with spears. Now, there are automatic rifles. That's a big change." It has literally been a case of rape, pillage and slaughter. Both sides believe that the other side has

body has a story of bloodshed to tell - of how people from the other side came to steal and kill, before fleeing into the darkness.

Not everybody is pleased that the conference, which was partly sponsored by Christian Aid, came to fruition. The Sudanese government has instituted an effective system of divide and kill, to prevent the (black, animist-Christian) south from making headway in its 15-year war against the (Arab, Islamic) oorth. The Khartoum regime therefore oeeds a Nuer-Dinka peace deal like a bole in the proverbial head.

Eveo those who seem to have most reason to be keen oo reconciliation have sometimes been less than enthusiastic. The southern rebel force, the Dinka-dominated Sudanese People's Liberation Army, holds huge swaths of territory

across the south. An end to Nuer-Dinka fighting could theoretically make life easier for the SPLA and its leader John Garang ("Dr John", as he is universally known; in their struggle with Khartoum.

SPLA leaders appeared to shower warm words on the conference. The movement's senior field commander, Salva Kiir, complete with Castro-style rebel's beard, stands declaiming about reconciliatioo between Nuer and Dinka "Let us beat the drums of peace." Eight bullets gleam on his gun holster, his bodyguards clutch Kalash-nikovs; outside the doorway, a young soldier squats behind a sub-machine gun. The SPLA talks peace, but is obsessed with war,

Despite the proclaimed enthusiasm of Kiir and others, SPLA leaders are not keen on the conference

- because they are not in control of the process. The pressure came largely from the grassroots and local churches, not from national leaders such as Garang and his Nuer counterpart, Rick Machar, As one of the chants at the bull-slaughtering declared: "They [Machar and Garangi cannot decide anything. We are more powerful than they. They cannot lay down the law."

It is as if Gerry Adams and David Trimble were banned from taking part in anything except the opening ession of the Stormont peace talks. before handing the floor over to local community leaders. In other words. a remarkahle set-up. Salva Kiir used his speech to launch what the SPLA, while praising 'your show". Not everyone was impressed. Deborah Nyadieu, a small bundle of energy in a neat blue dress, retorted that women no longer want to give birth to babies who would be sent out to die.

"We want to ask the men: why have our children been dying? Have any men died pregnant? Have you experienced the pain of labour? You are not so clever, you must take what we are saying seriously. Otherwise, next time we'll make a revolution. We'll stop having intercourse with you. We are not the women of the

past." Laughter, singing, applause. Even if the south-south agreement bolds, Sudan's wider problems are far from over. Despite an alleged ceasefire, government forces continue to attack the south. A hospital in the town of Yei, for example, was severely damaged by Sudanese gov-ernment bombing raids this mooth.

Some believe that a weakened Khartoum government could agree to a referendum on secession within the next two years; that option is more on the cards than ever before. Aiready, south Sudan is in a separate limbo of its own. Whatever happens next, the participants in the peace conference are proud of what they have already achieved. Henry Chuir, a Sudanese bishop recently released from a Khartoum jail, believes southern peace might also lead to a oorthern settlement. "If the south says 'We don't want war, we want peace' then the oorth will say 'They are united; it's better that we let them go'."

The slaughtered hull may mark the achievement of a peace from below. In that sense, this was indeed a historic moment. But politicians and professional soldiers have not yet had their say. A generation in southern Sudan has grown up knowing nothing but war. They see it

stretching out for years to come. Ask Salva Kiir about the prospects for long-term peace and about attempts to set up civilian structures in the desolation that is SPLA-controlled southern Sudan, and he is almost tongue-tied. By contrast, when asked about the prospects of further war, the commander waxes lyrical. "We're prepared to take the struggle on for a hundred years." The international community, whose involvement in the peace process is stalled, does not seem much bothered either way.

Perhaps somebody should go and slaughter a few more bulls.



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Alien unintelligence

Fifty per cent of Britons believe in extra-terrestrials. Then there's astrology, homeopathy, the occult and feng shui. But now a new group has declared war on the weird. By Meg Carter

is unnervingly cheerful for a woman given just 10 days to live after appearing on the Richard and Judy show. She was asked on the programme to discuss a casket containing the cursed remains of an 18th-century sailor who died in curious circumstances. Sportingly, Ms Grossman took her life in her hands and lifted the lid. Risky? Maybe. But it's all in a day's work for a professional skeptic (more on the American spelling of the word later).

Being a skeptic may sound like a strange vocation, but it's an increasingly important one, says Ms Grossman, a writer and one-time folk singer. "Almost everyone you know now holds some sort of irrational or strange belief without thinking these views through," she helieves. "It's too easy to talk of energies in crystals, homeopathic remedies, the paranormal - people just don't realise how many outrageous things they now believe

Evidence of this is now all around us. According to research from the Policy Studies Institute, sales of occult books have risen by 75 per cent over the past five years while science hook sales fell by more than a third. No figures are yet available for the booming interest in feng shui. The country enjoys tales of a couple who sued the vendors of a haunted house in an attempt to get the courts to rule on the existence of ghosts; the Church of England's working party to investigate the rise of exorcism; and Liverpool John

endy Grossman Moores University's latest research programme into ESP. Furthermore, a survey Focus magazine reveals that more than 50 per cent of the British public now helieve in aliens. And the Fortean Times' Weirdness Index confirms marked rise in paranormal ac-Their latest

> based on paranormal reports ranging from ghosts to holy the world was 4.1 per cent weirder in 1998 than in 1997. Harmless fun? Or lazy thinking that can result in people being misled or, worse conned? Well, that depends on the

calculations -

Grossman says, which rarely gets a fair hearing in mainstream media. Thank goodness for the skeptics, then - a movement launched in the US in 1976 as part of a backlash against the hippie obsession with mysticism and the paranormal. Leading exponents, including Isaac Asimov, Carl Sagan and James Randi, have since inspired sympathetic groups of non-believers elsewhere to come together in the pursuit of concrete proof. And now,

evidence that exists to prove or dis-

prove such claims - evidence, Ms

is attracting a following here.

Today, Britain boasts two skeptic magazines - The Skeptical Intelligencer and The Skeptic, whose latest issue exposes astrology and debunks claims that milk can be kept fresh by paranormal means. There is also a national organisation - the Association of Skeptical Enquiry and a monthly skeptics' forum in central London.

"The skeptic's role is to question," says Tony Youens, a safety officer at

Nottingham Trent University, part-time illusionist and ASKE not interested in finding out if what spokesman. The American spelling is used to set skeptics apart from those who are

merely "sceptical", which literally means "disbelieving", he explains: "Skepticism is about encouraging a bal-anced view of the world. And more critical thinking." The skeptic

approach, however, has taken time to establish in Britain - some have been deterred by the stridency of American exponents, says Dr Scott Campbell, skephe and philosopher at London University's University College. James Randi, for example,

has made a high-profile career from publicly debunking a broad range of claims. In possibly his greatest victory, he exposed as a fraud a French scientist who appeared to prove that homeopathic remedies work. Randi also offered \$1m to anyone able to prove paranormal or supernatural powers in lab conditions. The prize remains unclaimed despite numerous attempts,

including one by a human magnet. Another reason for skepticism's slow uptake is our reluctance to hear our beliefs challenged. "The British public is pretty complacent," Dr Campbell says. "When confronted with hard facts, some people are in-

not interested in finding out if what they believe is true."

Ms Grossman agrees. "There's too much emphasis now on 'if it's true for you, it's OK'," she says, highlighting the pick'n'mix-style approach to spirituality illustrated by ex-England coach Glenn Hoddle. Mistrust in established religious has led many to look for spiritual guidance elsewhere, she says. "But I don't subscribe to the argument that you can believe anything if it gets you through the day. You wouldn't buy a washing machine on the promise that maybe it will work on Saturday morning."

We fool ourselves in lots of ways, says Dr Matthew Smith, who's leading the John Moores research into telepathy and ESP. "A lot of people have personal experiences they find difficult to explain," he says. Others have grown wary of science - a situation exacerbated by the controversy over genetically modified food.
"In times of uncertainty people cling to beliefs which given them a sense of purpose or control," he adds.

Medical-related misbeliefs are most disturbing, Ms Grossman believes, pointing to the "natural" Chinese herbal remedies recently shown to contain steroids. Religion, however, remains a grey area.

"Being a skeptic is not the same as being an atheist. Skeptics have no view on religious faith - their concern is with beliefs which can be challenged through proper instigation." And there are plenty of those to keep Ms Grossman and her friends husy for quite some

Corrupted – by a bunch of girls

LAST SUNDAY it rained from morning to night, my wife was incapacitated by a slipped disc, and the boys were beginning to get cabin fever. I knew I should have builted them into coats and wellies for a sprint round the park, but I just couldn't be both-ered. Instead, we dropped in on some old friends we hadn't seen for a while and their two small daughters.

Normally such a visit would not work. Within 10 minutes of arriving our eight-year-old son Dercy would be champing at the bit and demanding to go, which is why we don't see as much of friends-with-daughters as we used to. But in a recent development, alongside football, collecting football stickers, fishing and warring with his Digimon computerised game, Darcy is now hooked on Beanie Babies, the first hobby he and his mates must have picked up from the

girls in their class. Beanie Babies are a range of infuriatingly cute soft toys in the shape of animals, small and cheap enough to be collectable and addictive. At our friends' house, Darcy duly disappeared to discuss the relative merits of Tracker the basset-hound, Nut the squirrel and Crunch the shark with Lily and her friend.

The four parents, meanwhile, cringed at the cutesy voices our children adopt when dealing with their Beanies, and tut-tutted at the way our offsprings' worst acquisitive traits had been exploited yet again by a market-ing campaign designed to part them from their pocket money. Darcy must now weigh the merits of one new Beanie Baby

A Swiss foot specialist sets Americans properly on their feet

PARK LIFE



against 12 packets of stickers - a task that would surely stretch

MILLAR

But given Darcy's taste for rough sports (which I approve) and violent computer games (which I don't), my own feeling was that Beanie Babies were a good thing, even at the risk of turning him into a Graham Le Saux-type footballer - one who collects antiques, visits art galleries and, heaven forbid. reads The Guardian. For the first time. Darcy has a peaceful hobby he can share with girls.

Or so I thought. A circular was sent from school alerting us to a spate of bullying in the playground-I opened my interrogation, but Darcy pleaded ignorance. There must, I insist ed, have been some incident to

have sparked this letter. "Well, he said, "we were playing football the other day, and suddenly the girls attacked us with their Beanie Babies. Someone threw Nut in my face."

So much for the gentle influence of soft toys. What these girls clearly need is a sprint around the park to work off that

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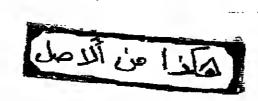
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Lord Menuhin

YEHUDI MENUHIN was a child the time of his second marriage. She predigy who became the most famous violinist of his time. Later in every moment of his childhood and life he also became a conductor, a musical educator, and a public figure with a passionate desire to combat the injustices and inhumanities he observed in a much-travelled career

His early celebrity and uninterrupted progress made him better known than other concert violinists who were often more reliable performers and better practical musicians, such as Jascha Heifetz, Isaac Stern and David Oistrakh. But Menuhin was much more than a practising musician and the variety of his activities made him the subject of much public interest and brought forth books, films, serious studies and journalistic comment. which came as much from outside

the musical world as from within it. He was born in New York in 1916 cf Russian Jewish parents who moved to San Francisco when he was a small child. They devoted themselves to the musical education of their son and his two younger sisters from an early age and gave them the kind of intense training that is associated with the Bach, Mozart and Beethoven families.

Yehudi in particular was the golden boy for whom no sacrifice was too great and for whom an expensive violin was purchased and the best teachers employed. Louis Persinger. who had himself once been a pupil of Eugène Ysaye, hecame his teacher when he was five years old and accompanied his early recitals. Yehudi made his début as soloist with an orchestra at the age of seven. He was sent to Europe to study with Adolf Busch and then with Georges Enesco, the teacher who had the greatest influence on him.

In 1929 at the age of 13, after a long coast-to-coast American tour, he was heard by Henry Goldman, a prominent New York philanthropist and patron of the arts, in the ikovsky concerto at Carnegie Hall, Goldman was so impressed that he bought Menuhin a Stradivarius violin, the only one then on the market. The instrument was played ty him on his subsequent European tour and at his Berlin debut.

Meouhin was encouraged to develop a large repertory of established rielin works and new compositions, and this frequently included music not well known outside its own country or even within it. His parents, Moshe and Marutha Menuhin. travelled with him and taught him those subjects he had missed in school - he only went to a normal solid that he was not allowed to that get quick results but are often

He met all the great conductors of his time, played under most of ality in 1985, 20 years after being apthem, and performed a considerable pointed bonorary KBE. In his long number of works written for him hy career he picked up many honours composers who wished to be associaled with his celebrity and knew that he had the ability to make their work better known. At 16 he met Sir Edward Elgar and performed his vidin concerto with the composer conducting; the work was recorded and is frequently reissued. Elgar, who was 75 at the time, spoke highly of the young prodigy.

Menuhin became associated in the public's mind with the popular repertory and in particular with the Mendelssohn concerto, for which he seemed to have a special feeling; he recorded it many times. He later played the Bartók concerto and called it the major 20th-century violin work of its kind: it was a perenmini part of his repertory, as was the sele sonata Bartok wrote for him in 1944. Among other modern works he performed in the Forties were the When Berg concerto and the Schooberg Funtasy for Violin and Piano.

Bach played a large part in the ...enuhin repertoire and the double sielin concerto and the Vivaldi triple. the latter less frequently played, gave him the opportunity to perform with many other violinists including Stern, Jacques Thibaud, Nathan Tilstein and Mischa Elman. He recorded the concerti of Beethoven. Brahms, Bruch, Haydn, Mendelsselm, Mozart and Tchaikovsky many lines, along with work by William Walton, Paul Ben-Haim, Enesco. lidehrando Pizzetti and Ernest Bloch, and many other composers.

He was open to other forms of music and other cultures. In later years lie played jazz with Stephane Grappelli, although he never achieved Grappelli's improvisational sense of rhythm, and studied and played with Indian musicians such as Ravi Shankar. On occasion he played the viola in such works as Rerlioz's Harold in Italy symphony.

His long career as a violinist had good and bad patches. He seemed unaware of this, at least in public; the great charm and relaxed manner that he brought to his playing was mere appealing to the average audience than the often dry perfection of other violinists. He was not a violimist's violinist, and the respect of his musical colleagues was as much dge to his erudition and public good works as to his performing skills. He teak criticism badly and was easily hurt, probably as a result of his overprotected and indulged childhood.

Ris mother, Marutha, was the strongest influence in his life until due course Persinger relented.

teenage years, but chose his first wife, Nola Nicholas, an Australian heiress whom he married in 1938 and, after several unhappy years, divorced. His second marriage, to Diana Gould, an English ballet dancer, was idyllically happy. He had two children by each marriage: Jeremy, his son by the second, is now an established pianist.

Yehudi and his two sisters could be said to have missed their childhood in furthering their parents' ambitions, hut only Yaltah, the youngest (a pianist), publicly complained. Hephzibah had a distinguished career as a concert pianist, playing frequently with her brother until her death in 1981.

He worried constantly about the state of the world, the wars and conflicts created by national, ideologi-cal and racial differences, the plight of refugees and the victims of aggression. He also worried about the increasing pollution created by the greed, stupidity and indifference of husiness interests and governments. He played frequently in Israel, and as a Jew felt deeply for the problems of that country, siding with the doves and using his influence to try to further a harmonic ending of the Jewish-Arab conflict. Menuhin had a special feeling for Russia, where he performed from the beginning of his career.

He had a deep respect for countries that preserved a civilised life style in a disciplined society such as Switzerland and a loathing for regimes where human rights are non-existent. While admiring the achievements of capitalism, and the vitality of the United States, he deplored its destructiveness, and while recognising the ideals of Com-munism, be realised that in practice it nearly always choked initiative and real progress. Menuhin was a cosmopolitan liberal with a realistic understanding of the darker side of human nature, but he never lost hope that mankind might come to its senses before it was too late.

Perhaps his most enduring legacy is the Menuhin School of Music. founded in 1963 at Stoke d'Abernon in Surrey, which for the most part has been a school for talented young string players. It provides a rounded musical education and has turned out some excellent musicians, hut so far no world-class talent. It has been traditional in its teaching methods, concentrating mainly on Russlan and French techcross the road alone until he was 18. suspect to professional musicians.

Menuhin adopted British nationand honorific appointments. He appeared in many films and television programmes, had others made about him, directed festivals, wrote books and had others written about him. His autobiography Unfinished Journey appeared in 1977.

JOHN CALDER

"They listen more intently if one doesn't shout."

Yehudi Menuhin's observation made apropos an orchestral rehearsal he was conducting - could have applied equally well to his way with the whole of life, writes Robert Ponsonby. No musician can have been listened to so intently, or raised his voice so little. For 70 years he was an international personality worth listening to well beyond the sphere of music, a voice all the more eloquent hecause of its essential innocence. He once said of Elgar's music that it was "never crude, never aggressive, never vulgar"; and that was true of Menuhin himself.

As his career unfolded he was listened to in different ways. At first, he was simply the hreathtakingly gifted child prodigy; then, as he matured, the master violinist. With the Second World War, he became a tireless public servant, giving innumerable concerts for Allied troops. often in hazardous conditions. With peace, he emerged as a legendary figure, in world-wide demand. At the same time he began to be known for his houndless curiosity, not only within music but also about man's responsibility both for his own body and to the planet he inhabits. He took to conducting and, though by no means a "born" conductor, he was listened to because of the conceptual integrity of his interpretations. Latterly he acquired a status verging upon sainthood, such was the ide alism of his views. There were those who mocked him for his fads - "his yoga and his yoghurt" - but they

missed the point By his own account, Menuhin's parents - both of them teachers of Hebrew - took him to a concert by the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra when he was two and he begged for a violin for his fourth birthday. At the same time, he asked for lessons with Louis Persinger, leader of the orchestra. Initially, Persinger was unresponsive, so the how went to another teacher, whose sole instruction into the technique of vibrato was to shout, "Vibrate! Vihrate!" In

However, "He demonstrated and I imitated . . . Never having taught me a method. Persinger allowed me to beget my own." Vibrato came to him at the age of six or seven - but it remained a problem and he relearned it as an adult. At eight he had prepared the Mendelssohn Concerto, the Tchaikovsky, concertos by de Beriot, Spohr and Lalo, and the Bach Sonata in G Minor. He longed to play the Beethoven and, to "earn" it he learned the Mozart A major in eight hours. Persinger was furious and his father "laid a strap" to him. At about the same time he first heard Enesco and conceived a passionate desire to study with him, so, in 1926, when Menuhin was 10, the family sailed to Europe. Before settling in Paris to work with Enesco. he went to Brussels to play to Ysaye. The audition was instructive. Having listened to the first movement of the Lalo Symphonie Espagnole.

recording of Elgar's Concerto (though Elgar himself defended the interpretation with the memorable comment, "Austerity be damned! I am not an austere man, am 1?"). The collaboration between the 16-yearold Russian-American Jew and the 75-year-old Roman Catholic Englishman was entirely happy but, curiously, accounts of the run-through which preceded the concert differ sharply. Popular legend has it that Menuhin and Ivor Newton had barely reached the soloist's second entry when Elgar declared himself satisfied and announced that he was off to the races. Newton's more circumstantial account is to be preferred: "We played right through the concerto except the tuttis . . Menuhin and Elgar discussed the music like equals but with great courtesy ... on the boy's part. Most of the time Elgar sat ... with his eyes closed, listening intently."

Busch's fastidiousness irksome: "While Busch developed in me a sense of discipline, precision and authority . . . it was Enesco who fired my imagination." Meanwhile, more recordings had been made, initially with Persinger at the piano. Mainly trifles, they included a Mozart concerto movement, which is very elegant. More important is the first recording with

> with Landon Ronald and the LSO. This has all of Menuhin's virtues at the time - freshness, a loving concern for the music and complete technical assurance. A year later, in June 1932, came the famous Bach Double Concerto, with Enesco playing second and Pierre Monteux conducting, a collaboration wildly unfashionable by

orchestra - Bruch's First Concerto,

purist standards hut nevertheless unarguably convincing and, in the slow movement, very moving. Be-

Menuhin was a polymath and a perfectionist – if one who sometimes fell short of perfection. But for sheer generosity of spirit, for the range of his enthusiasms and the profound nobility of his finest achievements he was nonpareil

The Elgar recording was made in

Ysaye asked for an A major arpeggio in four octaves. Menuhin "groped all over the fingerboard" (his own words) and Ysaye remarked, "You would do well, Yehudi, to practise scales and arpeggios." Enesco. whom, the family followed to Romania in 1927, bad similar advice: Menuhin, he believed, should study as well with Adolf Busch, preeminent among German "classical" violinists and a teacher who would be likely to counteract his tendency to over-expressiveness, what Menuhin himself later described as his "too passionate playing".

1932. Meanwhile, Menuhin had had a phenomenal success in New York. playing - at last - the Beethoven with Fritz Busch who, until the boy had auditioned for him, had scornfully dismissed the possibility with the remark, "Man losst ja ouch Jackie Coogan nicht den Hamlet speilen" ("One wouldn't let Jackie Coogan play Hamlet")! A comparable success followed in Berlin, where he played the Bach E major, the Beethoven and the Brahms with Bruno Walter. He was not quite 13. He now took lessons with Adolf This too passionate element is ap-Busch and though he accepted the parent in parts of the wonderful first need for classical rigour he found

companied Bach Sonatas and Partitas were recorded, while, with his sister, Hephzibah, Menuhin recorded Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms and Enesco sonatas. Just before the war came the Franck and Pizzetti sonatas. also with Hephzibah, and the Schumann Concerto with Barbirolli (who remarked upon his "very Jewish talent") and the New York Philharmonic. All in all, Menuhin never played more immaculately than in his late teens and early twenties. Who can tell what effect his expe-

tween 1929 and 1936 all the unac-

riences during the war may have had upon him? He had married in 1938 tims had been arranged. Gerald

(unsuccessfully as it later proved)

and when Pearl Harbor was attacked in December 1941 he was 25. Over the next four years he gave over 500 recitals for Allied forces in the Americas, in the Pacific theatre and in Europe. The stresses of this, the anguish of playing to troops who might shortly lose their lives in battle, combined with separation from his children and discord with his wife, must surely have disturbed him fundamentally. He went through a period of personal dejection, tension and fatigue. His playing - based upon inspired facility rather than a rockfirm technique - self-evidently suffered and the critics began to comment upon his unpredictable standards

In private, he embarked upon a thorough-going review of his technical resources. This, together with three unrelated but in different ways inspiring events, brought him back to a point at which he was again capable of the superlative performances which had come to him before the war. Indeed, he sometimes surpassed those earlier standards: he was, after all, a more deeply experienced and mature artist.

Menuhin had met Bartók for the first time in November 1943, and Bartók had remarked of his performance of the Second Concerto, "I did not think music could be played like that until long after the composer was dead." Impulsively, Menuhin asked him for a work for violin alone and, in March 1944, the Sonata was ready. Menuhin was shaken: it seemed "unplayable". But after some minor technical adjustments he performed it at Carnegie Hall in November the same year.

Bartok, who had less than a year to live, was overjoyed and the two men developed a deep friendship. Two months before Bartok's death (from leukaemia) Menuhin met Ben-Jamin Britten in London and the latter urged him to take him on tour in Europe, where recitals for war vic-

Moore generously withdrew and so it was that the two eminent figures played at Belsen - twice in one afternoon - to those who had survived the horrors of that most vile of con-

It was for both a deeply haunting experience. Coming to terms with it, Menuhin was consoled by the selfevidently healing power of music. He was perhaps also fortified by the growing warmth of his feelings for the dancer Diana Gould - and hers for him. In any case he married that remarkable character in 1947 and, despite the prickly but humorous badinage to which she not uncommonly subjected him, there is no doubt they lived happily ever after.

Bartok, Britten and Belsen, his marriage to Diana - these restored Menuhin to his former interpretative glory, while his controversial support of Wilhelm Firtwangler, a public declaration of very great courage, led him to some of his finest achievements-the Brahms, Mendelssohn. Beethoven and Bartok Second concertos, all recorded with Furtwangler between 1949 and 1953. It is clear that the two men bad a profound spiritual and emotional affinity, and the Beethoven - as Menuhin himself would have wished - is probably the best thing he ever did.

His sheer range is easily forgot-ten. At the Edinburgh Festival of 1958 he played the Mozart G major concerto, the Brahms Double (with Cassado) and the Shostakovich First; with his brother-in-law, Louis Kentner, the Mozart Sonata in A, K526, the Beethoven in G op.96 (a magical performance) and the César Franck, and, with Cassado and Kentner, trios hy Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn. Brahms and Ravel. (The Beethoven and Mendelssohn they took to a suburban cinema. The recital - for local people who were charged a shilling – was a sensation, i Bloch, Enesco, Bartók, Martin, Walton and Panufnik wrote works for him, His repertoire included music by Berg, Chausson, Delius, Nielsen, Sibelius, Debussy, Fauré, Poulenc and Vaughan Williams, much of it idiomatically and lovingly performed.

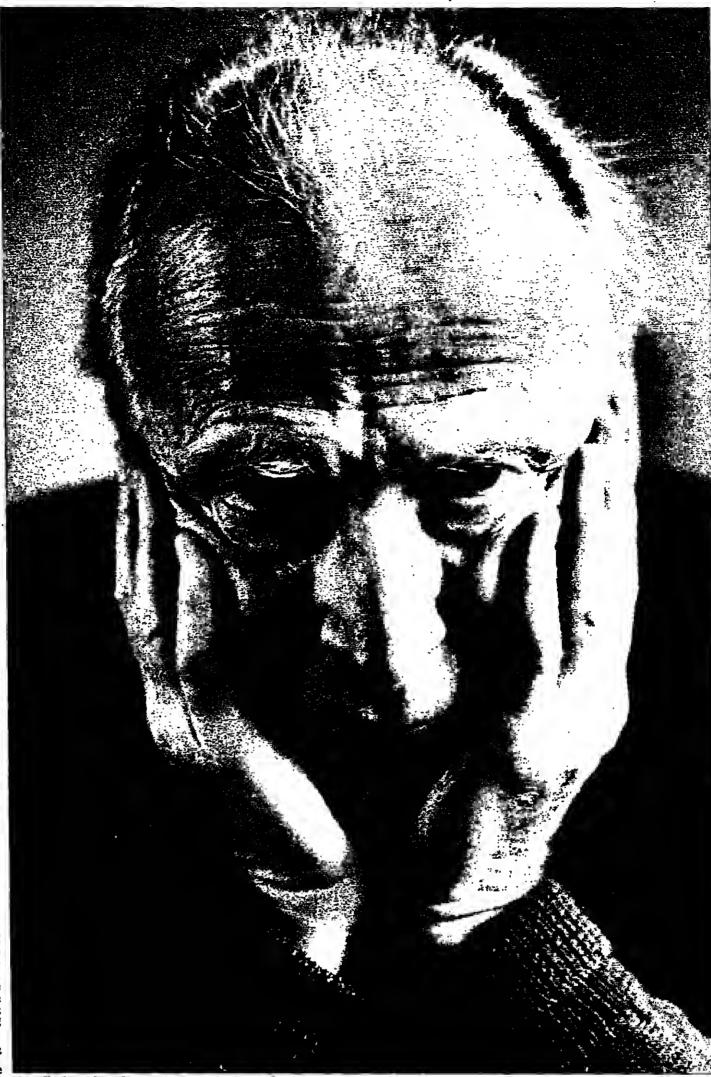
It is not clear when Menuhin began to conduct. Robert Magidoff's biography has a photograph of him conducting, apparently in 1944. But it seems likely that he did not take up the baton regularly until he established the Gstaad Festival in 1956. In Britain, as artistic director of the Bath Festival between 1959 and 1968, he developed the Bath Festival Orchestra Gater the Menuhia Festival Orchestra; and made a number of recordings - notably Bach's Brandenburg Concertos and the four Suites, performances which have more than stood the test of time. In 1967 he recorded Mozart's The Seruglio, a notoriously difficult piece to bring off. In due course he began to play less and to conduct more.

By the late 1980s he had formal appointments with the Royal Philharmonic, the Warsaw Sinfonia and the English String Orchestra. He was appearing with the Berlin Philharmonic and the English Chamber Orchestra. And his repertoire was steadily growing, sometimes in unexpected directions. In 1990 he undertook Walton's Belshazzar's Feast and though the performance lacked clan the dramatic spirit of the work was realised. A recording of Beethover's Choral Symphony made the same year was more successful. Mozart's G minor Symphony, recorded with his Polish forces a little earlier. was rated the best of innumerable versions by at least one critic.

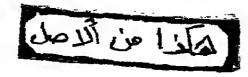
The truth is that Menuhin had little natural aptitude as a conductor. His bowing wrist could not adapt to the need for darting flexibility; his elbow seemed the last flexible joint in his arm. As a consequence what he did looked laboured. Players unfamiliar with his method found him hard to follow, but those who knew him well learned to interpret his wishes hy that mysterious form of communication which exists between instrumentalist and conductor. In any case, there can be no doubt that because of his innate musicality and his imaginative grasp he was sometimes able to convey the essence of a piece of music at least as successfully as some of his technically better-equipped colleagues.

Menuhin was both a polymath and a perfectionist - hut one who sometimes fell short of perfection. Compare him, as a violinist, with Heifetz or Haendel, and, as a conductor, with Toscanini or Kleiber, and his uneven technical standards are easily perceived. But for sheer generosity of spirit, for the range and infectiousness of his enthusisms and for the profound nobility of his finest achievements he was nonpareil. As Adrian Boult (writing in the early 1970s) put it: "It is impossible not to feel that Yehudi Menuhin is now the greatest man in the profession." And that he remained until his death.

Yehudi Menuhin, violinist and conductor: born New York 22 April 1916; KBE 1965; OM 1987; created 1983 Baron Menuhin; married 1938 Nota Nicholas (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1947), 1947 Diana Gould (two sons); died Berlin 12 March 1999.



Yehudi Menuhin: "The greatest man in the profession"



Eric Wolf

ERIC WOLF was an anthropologist, but not, he insisted, a theorist. "My primary interest," he said, "is to explain something out there that impinges upon me, and I would sell my soul to the Devil if I thought it would help." He avoided abstract debates and was never dogmatic. Nevertheless, he remained faithful to a conception of anthropology "that is not content merely to translate, interpret, or play with a kaleidoscope of cultural fragments, but that seeks explanations for cultural phenomena." And he was sure that any satisfactory explanation must grant central importance to material forces, as these operated historically.

Wolf always claimed that his background made him an anthropologist. Born into an assimilated Viennese Jewish family in 1923, a regular visitor to his mother's family home in Manchuria, he grew up in a cosmopolitan world.

When his father moved the family to Sudetenland in 1933 to run a factory, they found themselves on the Czech-German language frontier, a hotbed of competmg nationalisms and anti-Semitic agitation. "My chief fascination was for the extreme differences that made up my own social universe," he told an interviewer, "alien forms of life that helonged to the same society, carried the same passports, and interacted in a larger national context."

The most alien of these forms of life were the peasant villages of the region, but "these were all differences that were close to home", and he later specialised in the study of peasant societies. "So-called primitive or tribal societies never held the same interest for me because they seemed so totally alien to my own life."

His father foresaw the coming crisis and sent Eric to school in England, to the Forest School in Walthamstow, an experience he enjoyed. With the out-



Wolf: a 'neo-evolutionist'

break of the war the family was reunited in Britain, where they were interned as enemy aliens. (He was greatly inspired by lectures offered by a fellow detainee, Norbert Elias.) Eventually the family moved to the United States.

Wolf began studies in biochemistry before joining up with the mountain troops, with whom he served for three years and won a Silver Star. On demohilisation he switched to anthropology, and took his PhD in 1951 af Columbia University on the basis of research in Puerto Rico. He then began a long engagement with Mexican history and civilisation, drawing together materials from archaeology, history and ethnography in an attempt to grasp the continuities between pre-Hispanic and Hispanic Mexico, Later he undertook further ethnographic research, among Alpine communities, that again integrated historical and ethnographic perspectives, and emphasised ecological constraints on development.

ist tradition was challenged by a group of radical ex-servicemen that formed around the "neo-evolutionists", Leslie White and Julian Steward, Eric Wolf became a notable figure in this circle, and although he remained open to other approaches he was drawn into the rivalry between these schools.

Tensions were exacerbated during the Vietnam War. Wolf was active in the anti-war movement, and published several influential studies of peasant revolutions. He was never an orthodox Marxist, however, perhaps because he had so keen a sense of the variety of situations that had been created by Western intrusion into what came to be called the Third World.

This historical confrontation was the ubject of his masterpiece, Europe and the People without History (1982). He had taken sabbatical leave in London m 1974 to write the book, but when he began to assemble his materials in the School of Oriental and African Studies library he discovered to his chagrin that there were few monographs on which he could draw. He was forced to undertake much of the primary research from scratch, opening up fresh areas of historical research in the process.

His final project was a comparative study of the modes of power in different societies, essentially an attempt to discover an explanation for the Third Reich. It is no exaggeration to say that his whole life experience, and his whole research effort, was ultimately shaped by the need to understand this

historical catastrophe.

He joined the faculty of the City University of New York in 1971, and for almost three decades taught undergraduates at Lehman College in the Bronx and graduate students at the Graduate Center.

American anthropology was divided These were not prestigious venues, in the 1950s. The established cultural and his eminent colleagues at better endowed institutions tended to escape from undergraduate teaching at the first opportunity, but Wolf was a dedicated teacher. He developed special courses in culture and personality theory ("my bread and butter"), an intellectual tradition that he thought students should master although it had no obvious connections to historical materialism, or indeed to his own immediate research interests, and which had become unfashionable in American anthropology departments.

A man of wide culture and generous sympathies, Eric Wolf was completely without pomposity or self-importance, and engaged with students and vounger colleagues without ever patronising them. Towards the end of his life he became one of the most revered elders of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, faithfully attending their conference together with his wife, Sydel Silverman, and accepting with a certain ironic pleasure the honours bestowed on him m Prague, Vienna and Frankfurt, while remarking on his good fortune that his family had left these places just in time. ADAM KUPER

Eric Robert Wolf, anthropologist: born Vienna 1 February 1923; Assistant Professor, University of Illinois 1952-55; Assistant Professor, University of Virginia 1955-58; Assistant Professor. University of Chicago 1959-61; Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 1965-71; Distinguished Professor, Herbert H. Lehman College and Graduate Center, City University of New York 1971-92 (Emeritus); married 1943 Kathleen Bakeman (two sons; marriage dissolved), 1972 Sydel Silverman (two stepdaughters); died Irv-ington, New York 7 March 1999.

Peggy Cass

THE GRAVEL-VOICED character actress Center (including Bianca in Othello Peggy Cass won a Tony award for her portrayal of Miss Gooch, the adenoidal, frumpy secretary who in taking her flamboyant employer's advice to "live a little" becomes an unmarried mother in the hit comedy Auntie Minne (1957).

When she recreated her hilarious performance in the film version of the play she received an Oscar nomination, and though she appeared in other plays, several films, and enjoyed a prolific career as a panellist on television quiz shows, it is for the role of Gooch that she will be most fondly remembered.

Born in Boston in 1924, she attended the Cambridge Latin School, spending three years in their drama club without winning a single speaking role.

Determined to become an actress. she moved to New York, where she worked as a typist, telephone operator and model white studying acting with Uta Hagen and Mira Rostova. Her first professional work in the theatre came when she was cast in a USO production South Pacific during the closing days of the Second World War in 1945. In 1947 she understudied Jan Sterling as Billie Dawn in the touring production of Born Yesterday, taking over the role in Chica-go, and the following year she made her Broadway debut succeeding Ann Thomas as Maisle in Burlesque.

The producer George Abbott then cast her in his revue Touch and Go (1949) and other roles included a season of Shakespeare at the New York City

and Mistress Quickly in Henry IV Part 2) before she was given the part with which she would become identified. "I was in Dallas doing another show when my agent called me and said I had to come to New York to read for Auntie Mnme," she recalled;

I was hell-bent to go to California to be in movies, but he wanted me to read for the part of the Irish maid, Nora Muldoon, After I read for the part, they just said "Thank you" but as I was about to leave there was a buzz from the audience and Rosalind Russell, who was to star in the show, said, "Let her read for the understudy of Gooch." I expected to read with the stace manager which had been read with the stage manager, which had been the procedure, but Russell berself came on stage to read with me.

The star suggested they read Act 2, Scene 6 in which Mame transforms Gooch from a mousy secretary into a sophisticated society woman. Pointing to Gooch's shoes, she asks. "What do you call those things?" Gooch replies, "Or-thopaedic Oxfords", to which Mame responds, "Kick 'em off!" Cass kicked so Russell exclaimed, "That's my Gooch!"
"So I got the part," said Cass. "I always felt a little guilty because another actress had been told that she had it. But, after I read, they didn't sign her contract."

The play was a smash hit and a personal triumph for Russell hut Cass later commented on the star's generosity: .

Rosalind never once tried to tone me down. She was always trying to build me up. She said that by the time I came on, which was the beginning of the second act, the audience



Cass: 'That's my Gooch,' said Rosalind Russell Ronald Grant

had seen so much of her, she had carried so much of the show, that they were damn glad to see me. They say that some stars cut you down and reduce your part if you get too with Roz. She was absolutely out for the good

Cass was one of three supporting players in the show who went to Hollywood to recreate their parts in the 1958 film version. She had earlier made her screen début playing Aldo Ray's sister in George Cukor's The Marrying Kind (1952). Later films included If It's Tuesday, This Must be Belgium (1969) and a charming low-hudget Irish comedy, Paddy (1970), in which she played an

American tourist in Dublin who has an affair with one of the locals (Milo O'Shea). Other stage roles included the role of the meddling telephonist Ella in Bells Are Ringing (in Dallas), the revue A Thurber Cornival (1960) on Broadway and the comedy Once n Catholic (1979). She appeared in several productions of

the popular musical Nunsense, playing

the salty Mother Superior. But her major career after Auntie Mame was to be on television, where her brash repartee and encyclopaedic mind made her a staple of panel games and quiz shows - at one point she was appearing as often as seven times a week, and she was a regular panellist for over 10 years on the show To Tell The Truth. in which the panel are confronted by two plausible impostors and one truthteller, all offering the same implausible story. "I'm an actress," Cass told one interviewer. "I've studied drama, literature, Life! But, since I went on The Jack

Paar Show, they just let me talk." Last September Cass reprised her benefit reading of Auntie Mome in New York with the drag performer Charles Busch as Mame. Cass received an ovation for her performance, one of the audience commenting afterwards, "It was as if time had stood still."

TOM VALLANCE

Mary Margaret Cass, actress: born Boston, Massachusetts 21 May 1924; married first Carl Fischer, second Eugene Feeney; died New York 8 March 1999.

PSYCHOLOGICAL NOTES

STEVEN PINKER

The Stone Age mental toolbox we inherit

extraordinary organ. It has allowed us to walk on the moon, to discover the roots of matter and life, and to play chess almost as well as a computer. But this virtuosity raises a puzzle. The brain of Homo sopiens achieved its modern form and size between 50,000 and 100,000 years ago, well before the invention of agriculture, -civilisations and writing in the last 10,000 vears. Our foraging ancestors had no occasions to do astrophysics or play chess, and natural selection would not have rewarded them with more babies if they had. How, then, did our outsize,

science-ready brain evolve? This puzzle has frustrated our attempts to understand the mind as part of the natural world. But the puzzle can be solved with a key idea: the process of natural selection equipped our ancestors with a mental toolbox of intuitive theories about the world, which they used to master rocks, tools, plants, animals, and one another: We use the same toolbox today to handle the intellectual challenges of modern societies, including the most

Humans evolved mental machinery that allowed us to co-operate with and outsmart the local flora and fauna, Vital to that machinery - what makes it so powerful and essential to foragers and neuroscientists alike - is its ability to analyse the world into useful categories. The

abstruse concepts of science

and mathematics.

THE HUMAN brain is an world is a heterogeneous momentum gets "used up" place. To generalise from our and the path straightens out. experiences properly and make good predictions about events imseen, we need to understand something of the causal structure of the world - its contents and the laws that make it tick. Thanks to our ancestors' mental toolbox, we seem to be endowed with several kinds of intuitions that do just that.

And this brings us to how Stone Age minds grasp modern science. Formal sciences grew out of their intuitive counterparts. The conviction that living things have an essence, for example, is what impelled the first professional hiologists to try to understand the nature of plants and animals by cutting them open and putting bits of them under a microscope. Anyone who announced he was trying to understand the nature of chairs by hringing them into a laboratory and putting bits of them under a scope would be dismissed as

mad, not given a grant.

But modern science forces us to make some changes in our thinking, including turning off parts of the intuitions out of which it grew, Newton's first law states that a moving object continues in a straight line unless acted on by a force. Ask college students what happens to a whirling tetherball that is cut loose, however, and a depressingly large minority say it would continue in a circular path. The students explain that the object acquires a "force"

Although erroneous, the students' beliefs are completely understandable since we evolved in a world with substantial friction that makes moving objects slow down and stop.

Modern science also pries our intuitive faculties loose from the objects they usually apply to and aims them at seemingly inappropriate ones. To do mathematics, we primates - visual animals - invented graphs. These allow abstruse concepts to present themselves to our mind's eyes as reassuringly familiar shapes. To do chemistry, we stretch our intuitive physics and treat the essence of a natural substance as a collection of tiny, bouncy, sticky objects. To do biology, we take our way of understanding artefacts and apply it to living things organs as machines "engineered" by natural selection and then to their essences. the molecule of life. To do osychology, we treat the mind as an organ of a living creature, as an artefact designed by natural selection, and as a collection of physical objects, neurons.

According to a saying, if you give a boy a hammer, the whole world hecomes a nail, If you give a species an elementary grasp of psychology, hiology, and mechanics, then for better and worse, the whole world hecomes a society, a zoo, and a machine.

Adapted from Steven or "momentum" that powers Pinker's How the Mind it along the curve until the Works' (Penguin, £9.99)

God our Mother is not a trendy affectation

ALMOST FOUR decades have passed since the great debate amongst Protestants about whether God should be addressed by the personal pronoun "You" as opposed to the old style of "Thee" and "Thou". The chief grounds for retaining the old language were that the more modern address approached God in a manner that was "too familiar and lacking in due reverence". The argument never tield much water masmuch as Jesus himself had shocked the religious establishment of the time hy addressing God in as familiar way as one could by using the word "Abbo", which translates as "Daddy". What is more, in the Lord's Prayer, he clearly encouraged his followers to adopt the same familiarity.

The debate about "Thee and

Thou" was not unimportant

because it was saying something about the nature of God and the belief in the intimacy and the familiarity of our relationship to that God. The language with which we address God is, in a sense, both credal and formative of our beliefs. It is right, therefore, that care should be taken in the language we choose, because what we believe about the nature of God can have a profound effect on our values and behaviour. If we believe in a punitive or vengeful God, then it is but a short step to acting punitively or vengefully in his name. Much of the shameful part of the history of the Church has sprung from the prevailing under standing of the nature of God. Would men have ever embarked upon the Crusades if their overriding image of God

had been of a mother caring for her young? I was once asked by a ward sister to speak to a woman who was desperately ill. There was no hope for her and the ward sister said that she needed the release of death hut was hanging on to life in fear of dying. She had attended church all her life and yet she was terrified of meeting God in death. Perhaps if she had heard God regularly addressed as "God

our Mother" the story might have been different. If the debate about "Thee

and Thou" has long been resolved there is now another which parallels it. What now seems to be causing concern to some Christians is the idea that we can address God as "Our Mother". The issue has surfaced in the response in certain quarters to the Methodist Church's new liturgy book. the first substantial revision for 24 years, which comes into use on Easter Day and which will authorise for the first time

FAITH-

&

REASON

BRUCE DEAKIN Changing the language we use about the divine does more than genuflect to fashions

for political correctness. It brings new depth to the way we think and act

in that church, prayers which address God as Mother. The grounds on which the argument about "Thee and Thou" was settled make the current debate more problematical. For Jesus taught us to address God with a word that could not be more clearly masculine, "Abba"!

However, for a book written almost entirely by men, the Bible is not altogether lacking in allusion to the motherly characteristics of God's nature and Jesus claims for himself motherly feelings when he says, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem ... how often have I desired to gather your children as a hen gathers her brood under her wings." But there is a more telling point. Tomorrow churches through-

out the land on Mothering Sunday will be celebrating the role of motherhood and the distinctive part mothers have to play in the lives of most of us. Perhaps in our day the role is not quite as distinctive as It once was. There are many fathers who carry out the tasks that were once the traditional role of the mother Women do not necessarily fulfil the tasks of caring for children better than men but I suspect that for the most part they do, perhaps because their feminine nature enhances their caring. The same piece of music played on different instruments can be equally beautiful but it will be significantly different. At the end of the day, only a woman can give birth and only a mother can enjoy the hond with her offspring that comes from having carried the child in her womb and having suffered the travail of hirth.

It is a biblical assertion that male and female were made in the image of God. Are those distinctive qualities of motherhood not part of that image? If they are then we are doing God a disservice in not recognising the fact in our corporate devotion, for arguably the qualities of the stereotypical mother match those of the God of the Gospels much more than those of the archetypal male.

The fact that Jesus used some other form of address ought not to discourage us from augmenting the vocabulary with which we address God, thereby enriching our understanding of the nature of the divine. Over the centuries God has been given a good number of titles which Jesus did not use. I have little doubt that before long "God our Mother" will be commonplace. For it reflects what we are learning about the nature of God. Perhaps the use of it will alter that perception further and, over time, help us foster in our society the values of caring and compassion which we associate with the most feminine of virtues.

Bruce Deakin is n Methodist minister in Haydock. Merseyside

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

 $C_{i,j}^{k}$

RICHARDSON: On 8 March 1999, to Sally (nee Powe) and David, a daughter, Amy Alexandra, a sister for Natasha.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Cavair Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Quard at Horse Gnards, 11am. TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 16am: 1st Ballai-ion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palore 11.30am, band provided by Palace. 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Announcements for BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptioos, Marriages Deaths, Memorial services. Wedding anniversaries. In memoriam) are charged at 66.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS TODAY: Baroness Amos.

former chief executive,

Equal Opportunities Commission, 45; Mr Walter Annenberg, former US ambassador to Britain, 91; Lord Borrie QC, former Director-General of Fair Trading, 68: Mr Terence Brady, playwright, novelist and actor, 60: Sir Terence Burns, Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury, 55; Lord Butterworth, former Vicechancellor, Warwick University, 81; Sir Michael Checkland, former Director General of the BBC, 63; Miss Lesley Collier, ballerina, 52; Mr Lionel Friend, musical director, Nexus Opera, 54; Sir Graham Hart, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, 59; Sir Robert Mark, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. 82; Mr James Marshall MP. 58; Sir Henry Nevile, former Lord-Lieutenant of Lincoinshire, 79: Dr David Peace, glass engraver and

town planner, 84; Air Com-

modore Helen Renton, for-

mer Director, WRAF, 68; Mr

singer, 60; Mr Jim Slater. writer and former chairman, Slater Walker Securities, 70; Lord Thomas of Gresford QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 62; Mr Peter Viggers MP, 61.

TOMORROW: Prince Albert of Monaco, 41; Sir Kenneth Alexander, former Principal. Stirling University, 77; Miss Pam Ayres, poet, 52; Professor Sir Michael Berry, physicist, 58; Mr Ian Bruce MP. 52; Mr Michael Caine, actor, 66; Mr Jasper fessor Sir Colin Dollery, former Dean, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, 68: Mr Alan Elliott, former Chief Constable, Cumbria, 57; Lt-Gen Sir Peter Graham, former GOC, Scotland, 62; Sir Philip Holland, former MP, 82; Mr Quincy Jones, composer, arranger. conductor and trumpeter, 66: Sir Gavin Laird, chairman, Greater Manchester Buses North, 66; Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas Lowe, 77; Mr John McCallum, actor and producer, 81; Lord Marsh, former Chairman, Newspa-Neil Sedaka, songwriter and per Publishers' Association.

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71; Sir Eric Norris, former diplomat, 81; Mr Bill Owen, actor, 84; Sir Richard Parsons, former amhassador to Sweden, 71; Dame Betty Paterson, former chairman. North West Thames Health Authority, 83; General Paul Rader, General of the Salvation Army, 65; Miss Tessa Sanderson, javelin thrower, 43: Mr William Sillery, Headmaster Belfast Royal Academy, 58: Mr Anthony Smith, President, Magdalen College, Oxford, 61; Miss Rita Tushingham, actress, 57; Sir Nicholas Wall, High

ANNIVERSARIES

Court judge, 54.

TODAY Births: Dr Joseph Priestley, scientist and clergyman, 1733; Sir Hugh Seymour Wal-pole, novelist, 1884; George Seferis (Giorgos Stylianou Seferiades), poet and diplomat, 1900. Deaths: Stephen Vincent Benet, novelist and poet, 1943; Angela Brazil, girls' school-story writer, 1947; John Middleton Murry, author, 1957. On this day: as predicted by Halley in 1682,

Halley's Comet came to its perihelion, 1758; the Soviet Congress voted to abolish the political monopoly of the Communist Party, 1990. Today is the Feast Day of St Ansovinus, St Euphrasia or Eupraxia, St Gerald of Mayo, Heldrad, St Mochoemoc. St Nicephorus of Constantinople and Saints Roderic and Salomon.

TOMORROW Births: Mrs Isabella Mary Beeton (Mayson), author of household and cookery books, 1836; Albert Einstein physicist, 1879; James Laver, writer and editor, 1899. Deaths: Admiral John Byng, executed for neglect of duty 1757; Karl Marx, political philosopher, 1883; Busby Berkeley (William Berkeley Enos), choreographer, 1976. On this day: the first pro-duction of The Mikado, by Gilbert and Sullivan, was staged, 1885; the New English Bible (New Testament) was published, 1961. Tomorrow is Mothering Sunday and the Feast Day of St Eutychius or Eustathius of

Carrhae, St Leobinus or

Lubin and St Matilda.

Fifty years after Jack Kerouac coined the term, the Beats are more hip than ever. Pity they were wrong about jazz, black people, women and pretty much everything. By Alex Webb

was all about the of approbation. have had a pretty good run. It is 50 Kerouac found a publisher for his first novel, The Town and the City, and coined the term the Beat Generation, but interest in Kerouac and the Beats has never been higher. In the past few years the Beats have been celebrated by the novelist Toby Litt and in the Welsb film House of America. When Francis Ford Coppola held an open casting call in New York for his intended film of On the Road, more than 5,000 people queued all day for it.

We can expect the Beat industry to move into overdrive this year, the 30th since Kerouac's death. His On the Road is the central text of the Beats, a jumble of car journeys, joints and jazz that had already skipped a musical generation by the time of its publication in 1957. It has continued akidding down the generatinns ever since, moving further and further from the context in which it was conceived. Reading it as a Home Counties teenager in the punk/disco era was captivating which teenager would not prefer the ecstatic wonder of the Beats to the scepticism and sourness of the British alternative, Larkin and Amis Sr? But divorced from its roots in modern jazz and repressive Forties America, On the Road has become a simplified statement of youth rebellinn for its own sake, a celebration of the institutionalised adolescence that has been such an courageous black schoolchildren intimidating force in Western culture since the Fifties. In this, Ker- its own ideals by desegregating ouac has probably suffered as much at the hands of his friends as at those Duke Ellington recorded his Shakeof his enemies; in any case, some re- speare suite Such Sweet Thunder assessment is long overdue.

the Road is not a book many peoin three weeks - and it feels like it - it now comes over as repetitive and baggy. Everyone seems to be sweating and shouting all the one of the central problems of the al rhythm" fable. Charlie Parker's

or a movement that time: "sad", interestingly, is a term Beats. In On the Road, Kerouac's own attitude to the Beats can prob-

But there are more serious problems with it. There is the appalling treatment of women, none of whom years since Jack is ever allowed a single intelligent thought, "There's a real woman for you," Kerouac has his hero, Dean Moriarty, say at one point in the book. "Never a harsh word, never a complaint - her old man can come in any hour of the night with anybody and have talks in the kitchen and drink the beer and leave any old time."

He is not being ironic. When Dean and the narrator Sal Paradise take their pleasure at a Mexican whnrehouse, they show nn glimmer of discomfort or imaginative sympathy; that Mexican girls must sell themselves is beld to be the natural order of things.

In this solipsistic world black people are treated mainly as a source of fantasy. In a famous passage, Sal Paradise speaks of "wisb-ing I were a Negro, feeling that the best the white world had offered me was not enough ecstasy for me, not enough life, joy, kicks, darkness, music, not enough night". This sensibility - common enough still among white suburban youths who have been told that their lives are rootless and shallow - formed the basis of Norman Mailer's ponderous 1957 essay The White Negro, inspired by the Beat example. "In the worst of perversion, promiscuity, mid-Forties. Kerouac's failure to pimpery, drug addiction, rape, razor-slash bottle-break, what-have-you," Mailer opined, "the Negro discovwere forcing America to live up to and Miles Davis the score for Louis Fortunately for its reputation, On Malle's film Ascenseur pour l'echafoud. But to Mailer and the ple read twice. Supposedly written Beats, jazz could only be about wildness and abandon - "Jazz is orgasm," Mailer observed.

This misunderstanding of jazz is

characters travel all over America enthusing about jazz to find its apotheosis in, of all people, the entertainer Slim Gaillard, Gaillard was a fine musician, but he played his whole act for laughs. The real musical father of the Beats was the saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker, who almost single-handedly invented modern jazz - bebop - in the

Kerouac's failure to understand Charlie Parker's music is very revealing

understand Parker's music is revealing. Parker's music, for all its extroversion, speed and sense of ered and elaborated a morality of the bottom..." This in the year that the product nf a kind of singleminded musical study almost unprecedented in jazz at that time. Parker's weakness for drugs and schools in Little Rock, the year that high-rolling should not obscure the serious musician within.

But bebop inspired in Kerouac and the Beats the mistake that white intellectuals have continued to make many times since - the assumption that other cultures must be more spontaneous, more intuitive, more soulful than their own; a sophisticated version of the "natur-

ably be gauged from a story told by kind of low-budget tran-Ted Joans, about a party where a Beat poet had proposed reading an "Ode to a Piece of Vaccinated Bread". Joans reports: "Bird interrupted, 'Stop right there. We are all brothers and sisters. This man here is going to tell us about this piece of bread that has been vaccinated. Now, you know there's no idiots in the house; and, if you want hear these poems you can... but, if you are like me, we will continue the party."

Of course, the Beats' misunderstanding proved highly saleable. "As it turned out," says the music historian Martha Bayles, "the Beat sensibility was a lot easier to popularise than beloop. Certainly the fly-weight nihilism of Beat poetry proved more appealing to the average movie-goer than the daunting complexity of a Charlie Parker solo."

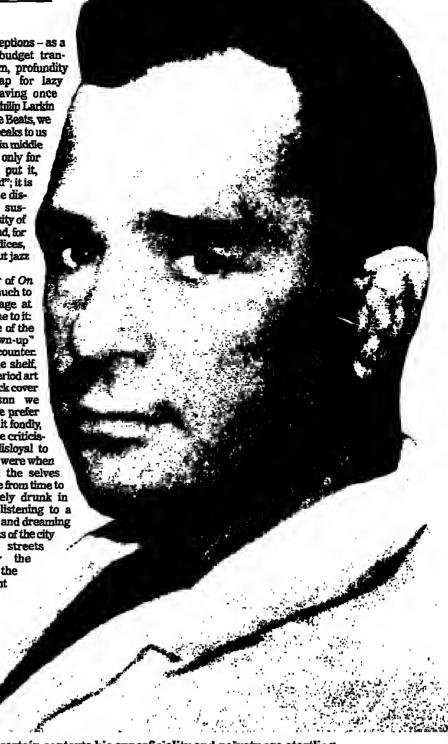
Kerouac's subsequent books, The Subterraneans, Darma Bums and Doctor Sax, were really more of the same. More revealing - uninten-tionally ao - was 1960's The Lonesome Traveller, a kind of On the Road goes to Europe. Nn longer pioneering descriptions of coast-tocoast car journeys and the Beat underworld, Kerouac pitched himself against London and Paris, where European readers could compare his impressions with reality - indeed, compare his writing with the great literature of those cities. In this context, Kerouac's superficiality and naivety are startling.

In the Sixties he descended into alcoholism. There is a late report of him drunkenly haranguing the great saxophonist John Coltrane in New York's Village Vanguard for "not liking jazz". In any case, by the mid-Sixties the Beats' message had found a new home in the hippie counterculture, which was even less likely to get to grips with the music of Charlie Parker and his followers. Kerouac died, a few days after a beating in a bar, on 21 October 1969.

Kerouac and the Beats were widely held to be the expression of atomic-age angst. We can now see

nourable exceptions - as a scendentalism, profundity on the cheap for lazy minds. If, having once passed over Philip Larkin in favour of the Beats, we find that he speaks to us more directly in middle age, it is not only for being, as he put it, "less deceived"; it is also due to the disciplined and sustained virtuosity of his writing. And, for all his prejudices, he wrote about jazz better, too. The power of On the Road is much to do with the age at which we come to it: it is often one of the first "grown-up"

books we encounter. It stays on the shelf, fixed by the period art of its paperback cover to the person we were then. We prefer to remember it fondly, if only because criticising it feels disloyal to the selves we were when it moved us: the selves we may still be from time to time, pensively drunk in a jazz club, listening to a smoky ballad and dreaming of the vastness of the city outside, the streets open under the starry sky, the lives that might



their writing and poetry - with ho- Kerouac: in certain contexts his superficiality and naivety are startling

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LIFESTYLE



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Adracine, beautiful worden, 40, seeks opposite, for travel, ar, Me and all it emals, 27:5566. to respond to any ad. Calls cost the normal BT premium rate of

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Tall, sim, ill, surachve, independent, professional fondels, 45th, likes most outdoor sports, booking, concerts, the atte and smoky wine berg, seeking an intelligent, fun-towing and partition, arrest-intelled male, for a possible relationable, TT5457

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STROMS, 300 METIMES VULNERABLE Responsibly heduristic, grancing, 9 rock music, officed humour, politics, animats, home life, sociating a deep-fluriting, intalligent maid, 35-45, for a huson of minds. South Wales or enywhere.

27:3362
ORIENTAL SPICE
Filipina lady, 42, widow, one child, honest and sincere, senking N/S, trill, sincere and earning men, with 40-50, GSOH, must be employed, for hending and possible relationship. 27:767
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Mad. HODD, gal, 20, 577, shoker, brownthus, emjoys gips, and challing out, serving funny, herotsome bloke, 25-35, with similar uniter sox, for trendship and markey prors. \$2558 MANTED: ONE MAN. Cheerial, franchy leacher, 24, seeling a caring, active male, 25-35, who bias ribbits, music and can mighe me laugh. Northeanton, \$2558 MANTED: ONE MAN. LDV Ferrorial, 25-37, subum hier, blue eyes, GSOH, NS, snippy seeing in or calc disman, booking and having in. seelid NS, stractive, caring, decent Christian guy, 25-30, with smiller interests and GSOH, West Middlerds. \$25451. men seeking women

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40, well educated, traveled and sin-cara, enjoys an, Bersture, nock and opera, sectis female, 30-45, for friend-sing, possibly romanca. Northern Home Counties area. TS 5639

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and more, TT 2008
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Two good-looking men, 23, GSCH, beelving two dirth, userative, older women, to share hights and and m, 25581
THAVELLING MAN
Tall, fit male, 40, with motor biles, I'm a loughing, christing, smolding, musto-lowing baveller, in search of a bright, slimbull, sold women, to explain like's mysteries with, Bristol based, 275885
AVERAGE-LOOKING MALE
Caring, honest, genuine, 26, asalting a homale, niged 20-35, with's very outgoing, loving and sincere, 375034
YOU'LL BE AMAZED?
St, stim, well-bred, professional, sin-

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ATTRACTIVE MAN, 38

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out, easing out, firms, seeling a female, for translation translation, possibly more League warrage and most velocities. 25:548
EASTYOCHER
EASTYOCHER
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WAMTED: MUSCLE WOMAN
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TAUREAN MAN
Intelligent, handsome, professional man,
145, into chancing rather than arts, laughing rather than sport, southit, seeks
strantsh, attractive hemale, under 40,
who can laugh or cry. North London
aren preferably, \$25,29
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Male, mc3-Os, salm, & and extive, sertiing a streter female, for who knows
what Packyl-forts@husbus area, \$25,331
ORIGINAL MATERIAL
Creative graduate male, aged 31, seriously into songwring, music, criemia,
poorly and people, is seeling a with,
lascinating lemale, for fun, thendship
and inspiration. Timesels area, \$25,330
MISERABLE LOSER
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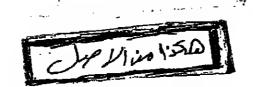
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PEREND REVIEW opendent 13 March 1999



 \sim inhhill

AT THE height of the Mau Mau posed, so that the voices of long-dead emergency in Kenya in the Fifties, one of the most dreaded sounds was the call of the reed-back horn. Its tones were enough to invoke the sacred oaths sworn by some Kiknyu farm workers, and obliged them to kill their white masters. The Archive Hour: Death in the Bush (Radio 4, Saturday) gave an account of the. terror that lurked after dark when so-called "oathed gangs" secretly

operated against the settlers. On isolated estates, lone Englishwomen defended themselves with revolvers as they tried to listen to the BBC World Service. In Kiknyu villages, loyal employees received "nunishment" visits late at night. Meanwhile, Nairobi politicians tried to find peace in their time.

The story was told with the use of

Mau Mau leaders spoke beside those of the retired policemen who'd spent years trying to round them up. All that was missing from the menacing

atmosphere was the striculation of insects at the margins of the forest. For there are insects everywhere, especially ants. In Mapping the World (World Service, Wednesday) an American scientist explained the march of ants across the Earth's surface, how ants in their millions leave chemical trails to help them

fore never get lost. Another American scientist talked that blue whales can navigate the almost poetically of "the conscious- entire Atlantic Ocean through sound ness of bacteria", a reference to the resonation, while honey-bees are way even the simplest organisms capable of calibrating the sun, moon always know where they're going and stars. Next week he moves on to Nick Rankin's programme about human beings, whose maps are genrecorded material carefully juxta- biological mapping demonstrated erally less accurate.

find their way, and how ants there-

THE WEEK IN RADIO

MAGNUS MILLS

If you place two strangers in a wilderness, then more than likely they will be drawn towards one anthing to sell, and the client has something be needs. Yet however close they come to completing their business, they are prevented from doing so by distrust and vanity. Instead, they circle and peck at each

and industrial videos for Americans

"because the accented speech can be

fast and the phrases are unclear".

Despite these claims of the indeci-

other like birds in the darkness. Russell Dixon and Gerard Mc-Soriey gave taut performances in this radio version of Bernard-Marie Koltes's masterpiece, which concluded that commerce is the most melancholic of things.

There was still more gloom in the Meridian Feature - Los Angeles: City of Mirrors (World Service. other Whether this could be to their Monday). Christopher Frayling jourmutual advantage, or not, was the neyed through the paranoid city subject of In the Solitade of the Cot- asking what had gone wrong in this ton Fields (Radio 3, Sunday), a play paradise of wide open spaces and about two men making a deal in a sunshine. "People choose to be bad." deserted warehouse. Conditions suggested the film director Carl seem perfect: the dealer has some- Franklin. "The garbage is fantastic in Beverly Hills," countered the film director Paul Mazursky. Another film director, Lawrence Kasdan, talked of a sort of net that connects everybody together, so that no one can get out. Frayling didn't talk only to film directors, though. There was also a guy who had a big cowboy voice and spoke of Los Angeles as an oasis city. He sounded as though he'd

just arrived by horse. "Kevin Starr," he said, introducing himself "California State Librarian."

EXIT POLL BY FIONA STURGES

> **VISUAL ARTS** JACKSON POLLOCK TATE GALLERY, LONDON

JACK COLLINS 74, retired, Plymouth from enything i have seen before. I loved the idea of

pattern that you could never copy these paintings, and the sheer amount of work is very impressive the slee much a complicated He also used a complication of colours."

PATRICK KIKER I loved it. I thought his work was particularly good lowards the and of his life, during what he called his "black

period", when he left splatter art. I enjoyed s unconscious imagery which was a big theme for him, and I thought that these works took him to a new level. A great entist should new locked into a style that he has

RUTH BROWN R's very differen se art; it a simple

fidn't really understand the na he gave the paintings, because I saw different things in the picture His compositions are crazy. I wou

ANDERSON O, actor, London I thought it was superb. I could get lost in his

excellent response when so accelent response when someone once asked him why his dign't point immiscapes — he said: "I am the landscape." I think this is very true. When you look at his paintings you feel as it port of him is right in there, I also found it interesting to learn about his struggle to create, and to communicate.

CRITICAL VIEW

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

OK:

"A technical marvel, enlivened by a smart script, great visual jokes and a handful of fantastic performances... But," wrote Anthony Quinn, "its chinking is confused and faintly patronising. "Technically superb, but dazed and confused," decided the Daily Mail, while the Financial Times deemed it: "Preasant but predictable." An imaginative

The strength of Speer lies in the

scrupulous, magnetic performances. Both

actors are supremely relaxed," noted Paul

Speer remains a compelling drama about

20th-century history," intened The Dolly. Telegraph. "Both the author and Brandauer

"Blur's sixth album is a grower," declared

Andy Gill: "On first hearing it sounds rough

and unfocused, but with each subsequent

encounter its character becomes more

clearly defined." "How is Noel Gallagher

inventive, artistic and daring than their

going to top this?" inquired The Guardian.

"It offers inexhaustible interest to the eye.

you're content for that to be what painting does, you can hardly ask for more."

considered Torn Leibbock. "A thrilling experience," sang The Spectotoc. "Pollock

struggle to convey his urgent vision of the

"The innovations consisted of a new, more

programme The Day Today poked fun at."

reported Robert Hanks, adding, "Apart... from that it was business as usual," "Those

waiting for the rot to set in will, I'm afraid,

spacious look to the studio, and rotating

computer graphics, with the kind of

rotating globe that the satincal TV

appears embrolled in a life-or-death

It can be contemplated endlessly. And If

adding, "This album shows Blur to be more

Taylor. "Skillfully directed by Brandauer.

one of the most enigmatic figures in

GOOD GOOD

EXCELLENT

Gary Ross's directorial

Mitherspoon and Tobey

Maguire) transported to

a wholesome black-and-

The Austrian actor Klass

Maria Brandager directs

Vilar's biographical study of Albert Speer, Hitler's

erchitect and minister

Essex mockney Damon

demise of his relation

hit single Tender'.

with Elastica's Justine

Frischmann in Blur's sh

The Tate Gallery hosts a retrospective of the US

Abstract Expressionist

artist Jackson Poliock -

aica "lack the Dripper"

Having bid an emotional

farewell to the flagship

News at Ten, Tresor

McDonald introduces.

ITV's re-vamped news

and later at 11pm.

album, 13, featuring the

and stars in Esther

white Fifties sitcom.

debut sees a pair of

beenagers (Roes

OVERVIEW

Ingenious fable," wrote Time Out. "An ingenious fable," echoed The Times, "The parallel-dimension concept is larkily executed, although if you've seen The Truman Show, you'll have the paradoxes down pat," noted The Guardian. "Its concepts are just a girly und resided and shoe-homed in," rumbled The Big Issue.

POOR

himself must be applauded for having hired one of the few living men capable of performing beside that fascinating model and somehow upstaging it," sang The Times: "I struggled to keep my mind on it and even... to stay awake," confessed the Financial Times. The Daily Mail

erstwhile rivals could ever hope to be."

betrayal of Blur's genius," whinged the Doily Moil. "While 13 reveals a band

its demeanour," wrote the NME.

"Constantly surprising and extraordinarily inventive," trilled The Times. "A baffling

operating at new levels of creativity, some

hard-but-fair pruning would have improved

world," gasped The Times, but according to the Dally Mail, "When you have seen one

massive canvas of splosh, dribble and

prepared for the best and the worst of

Pollock," warned The Guardian, while the

Daily Telegraph admitted: "The first couple

have to wait a while yet," chirped The Daily

Telegraph. "Same theme music, jazzed up

presenter and reporter," snapped The Daily

a bit. Same fatuous backchar between

Mirror. The Spectator noted bright,

a set full of virtual visual aids and-

presumably some real ones too".

good-looking people wandering around

smear, you have seen them all." "Be

of galleries are heavy going."

Sven Eric Bechtolf's Bauer is more than matched by Brandauer, whose certh meticulous Speer almost singlehandedly carnes pronounced it: "Riveting but misleading". the play

as he abandons the

Daint brush in

around, the new

programme is

from the last.

indistinguishable

paintings.

Albam may have been unlucky in love, but his loss is our gain With 13. Blur have transcended their Anthon status and come up their most inventive and courageous

DEADLY

ON VIEW

Pleasantville is out on

general release.

Speer is at the

Almeida Theatre,

London N1until 27

and enquiries, call

0171-359 4404

March. For bookings

Blur's 13 (Food) will

be available in record

shops on Monday

certificate 15, 124

OUR VIEW

American family values, though

Ross's feature debut is a

makes a playful spoor of

its moral standpoint

is occasionally

confused and

condescending.

technical masterpiece and

The controlled formality of

album to date. Pollowing the trajectory of Pollock's career is an extraordinary spectacle which

Jackson Pollock is at the Tate Gallery until 6 June. For bookings explodes before your very eyes and enquiries call 0171-887 8000

favour of the "drip" Apart from a few cosmetic improvements and the extraordinary sight of Trevol McDonald walking

You can watch the ITN Early Evening News at 6.30pm and the ITV Nightly News at 11pm, Both programmes are on Monday to Friday

A careful ripple of a storm

RICHARD ALSTON is a choreographer's choreographer. He creates a plotless fabric of dance, with consummately crafted movement that dips and weaves on the energy of the music and sections the air with bold curves and lines. His facility is like an engine, chugging out an inexhaustible variety of images. Yet within this enormous range, the contrasts and modulations are understated, filtered through the stylisation of his language. An emotional storm for Richard Al-

sion is, for me, a careful ripple. Slow Airs Almost All of Them is his new piece for the Richard Alston Dance Company Using Mozart's Six Adagios and Fugues for String Trio (played by the group stingfactory on stage), he considers the adagios to be the heart of the music. These allow him to deploy his predilection to. _u-

DANCE RICHARD ALSTON.

DANCE COMPANY QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL SOUTH BANK CENTRE

ently lyrical duets, and the final one exemplifies his smooth manipulation of slotting shapes, closing with a duplicate pose of one body identically folded over the other But Alston's writing to the fugues (which Mozart derived from Bach) also has a graphic freshness, so that when he brings on the cast's four women he shows them as a tight, unexpected frieze, their backs turned to the audience. Cleverly he choreographs overlaps, caus-

silences between the musical pasjolts you into seeing the movement even more acutely.

The musical delight of live players and singers continues with the rest of the programme. Alston's 1994 Moreoriginal ballet score and, for the first time in London, puts the piano cen-tre stage. Richard Casey's 10 fingers are enough to cope, the dancers circle round him and Christopher Tudor leaps and rolls, an echo of Fokine'a tragic puppet. But what really makes the piece? The music or the movement? The performing style, too soft-edged for the jagged rhythms,

weakens the choreography's impact.
The dancers' deliberately gentle ing the dance to continue in the outlines, avoiding muscular tension,

look right in last year's Waltzes in Dissages. The surprise effect of this order, to Brahms's song cycle, julis you into seeing the movement Liebeslieder Walzer. Christopher Tudor breaks away from his relationship with a woman for the freedom symbolised by Martin Lawrence's man-bird. The threading-through of ments from Petrusika takes Stravin-a theme helps the piece avoid the sky's piano arrangement of his sense of prolixity which can some-

times blight Alston's pieces. Watching an Alston programme I find myself redoubling my admiration for him, but as the evening progresses he offers me diminishing returns. Perhaps it is because be articulates his choreographic contrasts with such restraint, perhaps because the pacing is so smooth and language so tastefully beautiful. I know I am watching different things, but it all tends to feel the same.

Artisan Entertainment, the distri-

butor of Ken Loach's My Name is

NADINE MEISNER Alston's 'Slow Airs Almost All of Them' offers diminishing returns



So good they named it twice

THE "FOREIGN film" screening on ground Festival is larded with Wednesday night was not a broad Italian comedy, or a nasty French farce. It was The Acid House, based on Irvine Welsh's short stories of Scottish lowlife, replete with American subtitles. "Slag" was still "slag" in this American-speaking translation. But "watching Coronation Street" read as "watching TV", and "wee bird" appeared on the screen in regulation black and, of course, with grey circles beneath the eyes... as "girlfriend". The Acid House opened the Sixth Annual New York Underground Film Festival, and before the screening ended, Manhattanites in the darkened theatre could

es after reading them. You stoopid slag, "said one fellow in a booming New York accent. "You daft sow!" replied his friend.

be heard repeating the film's phras-

pustulant 16mm shorts (Bite My Boohonkus), wacky documentaries (portrait of an obese champion hotdog eater), and videos such as 10 Beers in 10 Minutes (promoted as "Andy Warhol meets Animal House"). The Acid House was the slickest, attended by the festival's usual ageing youth-cultured crowd.

These cineastes, primed for four days of films that range from under-edited to unedited, might probably have suffered The Acid House untranslated. Other US audiences probably won't be as willing, though.
"It would be impossible to release

it without subtitles," says Emily Russo, of the film's American distributor, Zeitgeist Films. "There's True to its name, the Under**NEW YORK** DIARY



a lot of slang in it that was translated into American slang. Honestly, I didn't know what 'ken' and 'bairn' meant without the translation. And the film uses a lot of strong objectionable lan-guage – the subtiting really puts that

pherability of the kitchen sink - an inverse of America's passion for Shakespeare in Love's voices - ordinary New York viewers of My Name

Joe, took a similar tack, translating that film's supposedly intractable is Joe didn't seem to need the titles. After The Acid House, the festi-Glaswegian dialogue for US viewers. (Loach'a 1990 film Riff-Roff was also val's audience headed out of the subtitled.) US critics had said the film theatre into a cold, clear evening, and was of a "genre that's hard on Amerperhaps a late-night festival party at ican ears" and harder to listen to than the Irvine-Welsh-appropriate East reading French subtitles. The New Village pharmacy theme bar, Bar-York Times went so far as to thank macy. They carried festival pro-Artisan for subtitles that broke the grammes that urged them to forgo the "mollycoddling shopping mail mentality" of independent film. "See you in Hell!" the notes exalted. "burr-and-brogue barrier". According to Bing Woung, marketing di-rector of CPV, a New-York-based subtitling and dubbing company his company has also subtitled Irish TV

"I was happy for those subtitles," said one festival-goer. "Oh, I didn't really need them," said another. "But I had read the book."

"Never trust anything called 'underground'," mumbled a third.

ARTS DIARY

IF YOU watch children's television this morning and are stunned by its inanity, then you have a new champion. She is Anne Fine. the children's novelist. She told last weekend's Culture Wars conference that she wanted "to nail the old canard that telly encourages reading. This is a marketing device. Children would read more books if they didn't spend 18 hours a week vegetating in front of the telly."

Worst of all was "the threehour tide of noisy, senseless drivel that is Saturdaymorning TV, with its crass questions to prompt a phonein". She spoke from experience, having been a guest several times. On each occasion she was told she had received more calls than any other guest. She asked the producers why, then, they didn't have a programme

about book authors. No reply. The children's writer Helen Cresswell recalled adapting E Nesbit's The Phoenix and the Carpet for TV. Penguin Books asked her to write a novelisation of it. "But there already is one," she replied. "It's by E Nesbit - and you publish it." They replied that it was too difficult for children. Did she slam the phone down? No. She started writing. A girl has to eat. And she does, she says, "feel quite guilty about it".

I WENT to

retrospective at the Tate armed with the audio guide narrated by Paul Gambaccini. My copy had a high-pitched, speeded-up Gambaccini. It sent me round the different periods of Pollock at breakneck speed. "Oh dear," said a Tate official when I returned the cassette, "we're not meant to give out that tape." But they should. It is the perfect audio adjunct to Abstract Expressionism. THERE ARE two contenders

the Jackson Pollock

Award, Jane Horrocks must be nominated, for saying that she is giving up the theatre after playing Lady Macbeth because the play "emotionally highlights the bad things that you're going through in life". It was, of course, the production in which Miss Horrocks had to urinate on stage every night, so maybe it was the combined strain on soul and bladder that drove her to the edge. But she is pipped at the

for this week's Artspeak

post by Absa, the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts. On Thursday it changed its name to Arts & Business. "Both the new name and the identity have been generously donated by Interbrand Newell and Sorrell," it said. We can all get in on this philanthropic artspeak I

bereby donate the name "arts diary" to this column.

Edwidge Danticat - once a poor immigrant, now a rising literary star - talks to Christina Patterson

arrived in New York at the age of 12, she spoke in a whisper. She knew only a few words of English and had not seen her parents since she was four Being Haitian was bad enough at her school, without the added burden of a heavy Creole accent. Yet, at the age of 26, she was shortlisted for the National Book Award, the American equivalent of the Booker, and now, just 30, she teaches two days a week at New York University. It is difficult to believe that this elegant, extraordinarily beautiful young woman, at ease among the brocade armchairs and polished mahogany of the Waldorf, spent her formative years in the slum district of Port-au-Prince.

As a small child, living with her aunt, uncle, grandmother and younger brother, Danticat wasn't sure what had happened to her parents or if they were coming back. She gradually learned that, like many Caribbeans, they were in the capital of the American Dream, working all the hours God sent in the hope of a better future. When the immigration authorities finally deemed her cah-driving father and factory-working mother able to support their two Haitian children, as well as the two sons they had produced in Brooklyn, Edwidge and her hrother were catapulted out of their familiar childhood world into a cold, tough city full of strangers.

Their parents, too, were strangers. "The first year or so was difficult," says Danticat with characteristic understatement. "Even calling them 'mama' and 'papa' felt very unnatural. You develop a different kind of relationship, but I think the years that you lose you never get back."

Ingrained with "immigrant work-ethic pressures", combined with "eldest child pressure". Danticat braved the taunts of her classmates and knuckled down to serious study. She was intensely aware that her parents, who "worked from early morning to late at night" to keep the six of them in their two-bedroom flat, had high expectations. They hoped for a doctor daughter or perhaps an engineer, but Danticat settled for economics. The night before her finals, however, she would find herself overtaken by a story and compelled to write it down.

She ended up joining the Master of Fine Arts programme at Brown University, developing Breath, Eycs, Memory from a short story into a novel. Publication followed, with rave reviews. The Danticats' daughter's hobby was getting out of hand.

"I come from a place where breath, eyes and memory are one, a place from which you carry your past like the hair on your head," says Sophie, the book's narrator. Reflecting her creator's dual experience of good with relatives in traumatic transition to life in New York, this poetic, pared-to-the-hone and moving narrative is shot through with the folklore, stories and painful history of Haiti.

Here, the significant characters are all women. Sophie lives with her aunt and grandmother and then joins her mother in Brooklyn. All have suffered heartbreak and disappointment, not least the traumatic "testing" of virginity that poor Haitian mothers inflicted on their daughters to ensure the continuation of their one saleable commodity.

These scenes provoked hostility among middle-class Haitian-Americans, who claimed never to have heard of the



EDWIDGE DANTICAT, A BIOGRAPHY

the Duvalier dictatorship. When she was four her parents emigrated to the US, leaving her and her younger brother in the care of relatives in Port-au-Prince. Aged 12, she joined her parents in Brooklyn and published her first writing two years later. She graduated from Barnard College in 1990

Edwidge Danticat was born in rural Haiti in 1969, under Breath, Eyes, Memory was published in 1994, followed by Krik? Krok! in 1995, which was shortlisted for the National Book Award, and The Farming of Bones in 1998. In 1994 she was incloded in a New York Times article on "30 artists, 30 and under... likely to change the culture for the next 30 years" and was named by Granta as one of the 20 "Best of mg American Novelists". She lives in Brooklyn.

practice, and thought that the first Haitian-American writer to publish in English should have presented a more positive image of the homeland. "I didn't realise until writing this book how much difference there was between poor women and rich women in Haitian society," says Danticat. "But the people who might understand everything I'm saying can't read. For me, that's heartbreaking.

Illiteracy rates in Haili are among the highest in the world, and significantly higher for women than men. Even in spoken language, social differences are strong matriarchal sense in Haitian life, "a very strong sense of women holding things together", but "these women who were like giants in my life, when they went to the bank they were made to feel small, because they

didn't speak French well enough." Creole, the language spoken by the poor was rarely written down, while French was the language of the authorities and of dead white males such as Victor Hugo and Emile Zola. It is perhaps not surprising that, for Danticat, the writing "just started to come in English," a language which offered

perpetuated. There is, says Danticat, a "a neutrality" and "a kind of distance, one more layer between the story and yourself."

Storytelling was a central feature of her childhood, sowing the seed of all that developed. Danticat learnt her first lessons in narrative during the blackouts that were a part of daily life in Port-au-Prince. She loved "the interaction of generations, the one time when the eldest people in the family could sit with the youngest ones and it was a completely equal exchange." As a child, she devoured Ludwig Bemelmans's Madeleine books and dreamed of writing her own little-girl adventures.

However, as someone born during the dictatorship of "Papa Doc" Duvalier, she was intensely aware that "words can be deadly" and that writers in Haih often ended up in prison, in exile or dead. On arrival in the US, the first book she read was Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. She was amazed not just by its unflinching honesty, but by the fact that its author was happy and alive.

Danticat was hesitant about making the transition from oral to written language, not just because of the dangers associated with writing, but because she "knew it was a pale shadow of actually being in the presence of someone telling you a story."

But she was also aware that "once the storyteller dies, the story is gone." "Once you migrate," she muses, "you put a big ocean between you and the story and memory fails you. When you write a story, at least it's there. It exists."

The title of her short-story collection, Krik? Krald - the traditional storytelling call and response - could not have been a clearer indication that she had decided to take on the challenge. These stories, written over a seven-year period, offer haunting, hearthreaking vignettes of Haitians trying to forge a daily life against a background of poverty, violence and oppression, people whose "names don't matter to anyone but themselves". The first "Children of the Sea", bas particular resonance in a week when another 40 Haitians fleeing from their homeland have drowned off the coast of Miami.

Thomas Wolfe, shake hands with Edwidge Danticat, your spiritual heir," thundered Newsweek as the American heavyweights vied with each other to pile on the praise. Danticat found herself in the company of Philip Roth and Madison Smartt Bell on the shortlist for the National Book Award and cast into the unexpected role of an unofficial ambassador for her home country.

It was a responsibility she found increasingly weighty as she set about re-searching her third book, The Farming of Bones (Abacus, £9.99), published this week. Spanning 60 years, it is a devastating account, written from the point of view of a young Haitian servant-girl, of the events and aftermath of a massacre in 1937 on the horder with the neighbouring Dominican Republic, after its regime had rounded up the Haitians who came to work there.

This is, says Danticat, the story she has always wanted to write, though at times she was overwhelmed by the sadness of the tales she was told. "I was only able to work on this when I told myself that I was telling one of many stories," she reveals. The novel is, if anything, even more understatedly moving than the previous two, a searing

It is not surprising that she feels a little drained after this, the culmination of six years' work. Eventually, she plans to explore more of Haiti's colonial history, but at the moment she is content to work on a TV documentary with a friend. For now, this quietly spoken, self-assured young woman is happy to live with her family, who remain unmoved by all the literary fuss.

"I missed so many years with my parents and I like their company," she states. She has a "little office", a safeguard against the neighbours' assumption of babysitting on tap, but her own trousseau, embroidered as a child, remains, crisp and starched, in her bottom drawer.

COVER STORIES



AS POSH Spice celebrates the joys of motherhood, excolleague Ginger is enjoying being even richer than she was last week. For Transworld have paid in excess of £500,000 for her memoirs, and If Only will be released this autumn. As revealed exclusively here last week, agent Mark Lucas handpicked several publishers to participate in a beauty contest. What clinched it for Transworld was the fact that they publish The Celestine Prophecy. "Geri's very into new-agey things," explained Patrick Janson-Smith, deputy MD. Publishers were invited to Halliwell's Hertfordshire home and all found her "charming".

ON HER outing at Harrods. Monica Lewinsky took fright at the sheer number of snappers. What wasn't widely reported was the surreal chase, through china, garden furniture and cookware, as Monica and her security detail fled with journos in hot pursuit. Even the music was surreally appropriate: in one department, Frank Sinatra crooned "Tve been a rover". presumably in honour of Bill; in another, Linda Ronstadt pleaded "Rescue me".

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS yet again for embattled Beryl Bainbridge. This week brought news that she is shortlisted for the 1999 Commonwealth Writers Prize. She will find that some of her competitors speak with funny accents.

AT THE height of Margaret Thatcher's crackdown on leaky civil servants and memoirwriting ex-intelligence men, Morris Riley's manuscript on Kim Philby and his friends was rubbished by George Kennedy Young, a former deputy director of Mi6. It seems that Riley, a Sheffield accountant, named powerful individuals with personal links to Philby. Young accused Riley of "smearing" British intelligence but, in the late 1980s, a certain Peter Wright corroborated his findings. Philby: The Hidden next month by Janus - aptly, for a book about traitors.

HEADLINE HAVE signed up what they believe is the millennial novel. Turn of the Century by Kurt Anderson of Spy magazine (New York's Private Eye) is described. inevitably, as the Bonfire of the Vanities for the coming decade. The publisher paid well into six figures at a keen auction.

THE LITERATOR

Clean hands, dirty tricks

'What is truth?' said jesting Pilate. He would not stay for an answer, but Miranda Seymour goes in search of the elusive reality behind his myth

ERIC GILL, working on a stone bas-relief figure of Pilate for Westminster Cathedral, spent 17 years chiselling out a face for us to hate. Gill's Pilate stood for authority at its worst, the cold mask of a man in the pay of a powerful Empire. At the end of a century of colonial oppression. Gill intended his Pilate to be a contemporary indictment. The sculptor had thought of everything, except for the unexpected tricks light can play. Caught between the gleam of the cathedral floor and the play of shadows above, Pilate's face took on an unintended expression, of longing and incomprehension.

Gill's instincts were sure. The man Tiberius sent out from Rome to be the new governor of Judea was keen to please his master. Tactlessly, outrageously, his first act was to confront the Jewish population with gigantic gold medallions, set along the battlements of the great Antonian fortress, each of them offering a dazzling image of the emperor. His second was to propose the erection of a mighty aqueduct, as monstrous to ancient eyes as a Tarmac highway: across some of the province's most sacred sites. Philo, his Alexandrian contemporary, called him a brute of "inflexible, stubborn, and cruel disposition," presid-



Pilate: the biography of an invented man by Ann Wroe Jonathan Cope, £18.99, 352pp

ing over an administration notorious for "endless savage ferocity". Philo's Pilate would not have had a second thought about ordering the crucifixion

of a Jewish troublemaker. Was Philo right? The aqueduct proposal was Pilate's doing, but the images of the emperor may never have decked more than his own apartments. There are no other indications of Pilate as a provincial tyrant. If Matthew's Gospel is correct in stating that he brought his wife Procula to Judea, Pilate becomes a bit of a softy. Roman governors were in the habit of leaving their wives at home.

that we know nothing which cannot he questioned. Ann Wroe's book is not a search for a man who can't be found, hut a clear-sighted and intriguing look at Pilate down the ages.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, writing when Christianity was outlawed, prudently soft-pedalled Pilate's role. The Romans were in control; not, therefore, a good idea to let a Roman governor be the villain of the piece. Matthew may, nevertheless, have gone a bit over the top in granting the governor's wife an off-stage role to defend Jesus, and in letting Pilate perform the un-Roman act of handwashing during a trial (Handwashing was part of

a Jewish religious ritual.) The only hints of Roman responsibility in the gospels are in the form of death - the Jews never went in for crucifixion and the presence by the cross of a Roman centurion. Luke lets the centurion repent but he is

still there to see the deed. In 381, the Nicene Creed stated baldly that Pilate crucified Christ. The medieval storytellers preferred to take their lead from Matthew's mention of Procula. The Pilate of the mystery-plays (which Wroe updates with some wonderfully funny translations) is a preen-The truth about Pilate is ing, sensual figure, always

keener to be back in bed with his wife than taking tiresome decisions about rebel leaders. This Pilate was a jester, designed to keep an audience smiling. But he evolved at the same time as della Francesca's Flagellation, in which the governor watches the scourging from a detached distance: convincing "were it not for the fact that the hands of the beaters break into his calm rectangle of

space, drawing him into the consequences of his orders". Wroe's book is studded with such moments of quiet insight. Again and again, she jolts the past to life with an unexpected phrase. Caesar's death becomes more vivid when we know that he was clutching an armful of papers to be signed. like any modern minister.

Pilate's fate when he returned to Italy is as dimly-lit as his governorship. Was he eyer pricked by a twinge of guilt? Probably not, but my favourite last image of him is still as one of the three traitors in Walter De la Mare's word-picture of Herod, Judas and Pilate riding like ghosts, searching for the shriving only Jesus can bestow: an invention, of course, but no more than the sexy preener of the mystery plays, or the conscientious governor Matthew | each tailed with a characterisset free with a bowl of water. I tically deft and lacerating sign-

All our slips are showing

Baffled by rubbish in the media, a major poet mocks the new philistines. D J Taylor regrets that the poet's publisher belongs in that camp, too...

ONE OF the most disconcerting experiences of my literary life was to find myself taking second lead in a poem by D J Enright. The piece in question - part of a sequence with the ominous title of "Hospital Journal" - finds the poet on the stairs of the London Library chatting to a younger man who, amid much polite badinage, does not realise that his companion is seriously ill Enright, it turned out, had been suffering from a kidney tumour and could barely stand, while I wittered on about how well he looked. Mortified at first, I cheered up a bit on realising that this is how Enright works, whether as poet or essayist, and that the slightest shard of talk or print is fair game for his

muse. Business, not personal. The fragments gathered in Play Resumed (a successor to his 1995 commonplace book, Interplay) are an impressive demonstration of what might be called the centralising tendency of Enright's mind Newspaper headlines, pompous instructions on official envelopes, train announcements all are fuel for the Enright flame, a gnomic little ruminahon, or series of ruminations, on time past and lost decencies.



Play Resumed by D J Enright Oxford University Press.

off. A typical moment comes when he reels through a list of innnendo-laden books ads ("QPD readers do it in the bath") to muse "Sex sells books. What do books sell?"

Inevitably the principal target trailed through this accumulation of mini-chapters is rubbish: the kind of stuff that fills 80 per cent of supposedly serious newspapers and 95 per cent of terrestrial television. Coming across the "Real Life" section of a Sunday newspaper, he finds its contents consist of "the serial liaisons of people one has never heard of, fashionable restaurants here and abroad, fashion models of all sexes,

the egos of meandering columnists, agony aunts". Then comes the sting. Does all this imply that the rest of the paper is unreal? "No, not exactly unreal: just not very pertinent or true to real life."

There are several points to be made about this sort of lament, which elsewhere might degenerate into costive oldblokiness. One is that it proceeds not from elitist disdain hut from a kind of shocked humanism that can't fathom why a serious newspaper can waste space on the pros and cons of letting your bra strap show. Another takes in Enright's attitude to the depravities of popular culture, which deserves to the other varieties on display.

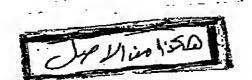
To someone like John Bayley, for example, as evidenced in Iris: A Memoir, popular culture is an excuse for a kind of sumptuous posing (at least one assumes it is posing) that affects to bring back despatches from an extraordinary world which, it is assumed, the reader has never encountered. Enright's position, on the other hand, is that of the man who has kept his eye on TV and the newspapers for the last 40 years and is only now beginning to roll his eyes at some of their

This might make Play Resumed sound like the worst kind of "Why oh why" journalism. In fact, it is desperately funny, buoyed up by an habitual self-deprecating humour in which much of the irony is visited on the ironist, and ripe to be slotted into an exiguous category of casual jottings that includes Anthony Powell's journals and the notebooks of Geoffrey Madan.

Delight in its humour and humanity, though, is rather tempered by the circumstances of publication. That one of the handful of really good poets England has produced in the last 50 years - Queen's gold medal, C. Litt and all the rest be separated out from some of of it - can be summarily sacked by his publishers (as part of Oxford's recent clear-out of its poetry list) is simply an act of cultural vandalism. It's just the sort of thing Enright likes writing about, and I look forward to reading his comments on the wraith who currently chairs the OUP finance committee.

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A2 POSH Spice celebrates the ion of motherhood, exbales even richer than she was at week. For Transworld have paid in paceus of Coor,000 for er memotes, and if Only will be released this antonin As revealed exclusively here last wack agent Mark Lucas hand. participate in a beauty contest what elinched it for Transworld ess the fact that they publish The Colestine Prophecy "Cieri's very into new ager things," explained Patrick Janeon Smith, deputy MD. lahers were invited to Matherell's Hertfordshire home and all found her "charming".

ON HER outing at Harrods Monica Lewinsky took fright at the theer number of snappers. What warm't widely reported the surreal chase, through dian, garden furniture and stewere, as Monica and her county detail fled with journes to not pursuit Fren the music surrenly appropriate: in coe department, Frank Sinatra ground "I've been a rover" recommands in honour of Bill in **ther Limbs Ronstadt** tended "Rescue me"

COPORTUNITY KNOCKS yet in for embatted bery! that she is shorthsted for Commenwealth Melicien Prize She will find that of her cornellors steak with furnity account

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 $\underline{\mathbf{z}_{GB}}(\mathbb{R}^{d+1})$ i the str Min affilia para Carrie Co. Bright B THE WEEKEND REVIEW The Independent 13 March 1999

Expensively shaved, Michael Bywater can face the world. Why do our features fix our fortunes?

The daily mirror's bad news

here will be time." muses Mr Prufrock, "To prepare a tace to meet the faces that you meet," and so there is. Even if there is not, we make it. Each morning, no mat-ter how late I may have risen, I go to the bathroom, ply my Super Badger "Chubby No. 3" shaving brush from Geo. F Trumper, strike up a fragrant lather (violet, lavender, West Indian limes) and slice the bristles from my face with a Gillette Mach 3 razorblade whose development cost was in excess of \$10 million. The blade rests, not in the serviceable handle provided by Gillette, but in an elegant, Edwardian-style confection of ivory and brass, costing some £45. Afterwards, I apply an astringent sweep of the Bloc Osma, an alum stone from France, followed by one of a collection of soothing balms and skin-foods. Nothing is too

If you could see my face, you might wonder why it deserves this treatment, at the expense of my schedule, my deadlines and my breakfast. You might wonder why I run my hand over my freshly shaved-and-salved cheeks, marvelling at their smoothness; why I peer critically at features I have seen over a hundred thousand times, which I have spent, in total, over seven full weeks, 24 hours a day, staring at. What is so special about my face that it demands such adulation, care, time and expenditure?

good for my face.

Nothing at all. My face (although, like all faces, unique nicity, at least - instantly recognisable) is just one among billions, all of which receive similar attentions. This universal self-regard distinguishes us from every other species; and yet in all that time spent before the looking-glass or the shaving-mirror, we never see our-



a guided tour by Daniel McNeill Hamist Hamilton, £16.99, 374pp

front and back; flips us over, moves our face through our skulls and out the other side. Even the most symmetrical face - symmetry being one of the markers of beauty hardwired into our aesthetic and carnal sensibilities - acquires assymetries of affect: the lopsided grin of Mills and Boon novellas, the quizzical eyebrow, the imbalance in musculature of a system governed by a semi-bicameral brain, even the effects of sleeping on one side. The face we prepare is not the face others meet.

Yet we prepare them all the same. If I do not indulge in my shaving ritual, I feel wrong all day. The condemned man precedes his last cigarette with a final shave, grooming the face that death will smooth for good. I know a woman who decided to kill herself, before she swallowed the pills, she gave herself a facial mod-pack, then did her makeup, eyes, lips and cheeks. The rule, even in articulo mortis is: moisturise, moisturise, moisturise. She made herself up, then nomade her self.

To gaze at one's face in a mirwindow into a parallel universe, one where our own workaday face is an object of devotion. precious and perfectible: a universe where, one day, one's face will come right.

In this book, Daniel McNeill offers a grand tour d'horizon of the face. He ranges from Dracselves as we are. The mirror ula's teeth to Jenkins' Ear, reverses, not left and right, but from the myth of the "Jewish

nose" (actually he points out, uncommon among Jews) to Greek tragic masks. He speculates on the origins and purposes of the blush (why did we develop binshing at a time when we were all black?) and discusses our almost universal inability to fake facial expressions, wondering whether that is why we value and admire actors to the point of obsession. Is it because they can fake it and, what's more, fake it 20 feet high in close-up on the movie-

screen. McNeill has no thesis. There is no argument here; rather, a recitation of fact and fancy, speculation and folklore, the Botokudo of Brazil with their breast-deep lip-plates, the crocodile-dung face-packs of Roman women, the real cause of wrinkles, the archetypes of beauty the racism of the eyes and the absurdity of racism itself; laughter and anger, like-ness and caricature; the muscles of the face, magic-workers with whimsical names: Risorius, Masseter, Orbicularis oculi, Buccinator However, Mc-Neill misses the old tale of the medical school dean invited to say grace at a formal dinner. His mind going blank of all liturgical forms, he intoned "Orbicularis orls levator labii superioris et frontalis; mentalis procerus," and everyone de-

vootly murmured "Amen." We are drowning in a sea of faces, and most of the ones we notice - brought to our attention by the highly-skilled and highly-paid snake-oil salesmen of advertising companies and media industries - are so unlike chronic, low-grade self-loathing. In Nineteen Eighty-Four, Winston Smith was faced - "faced"! - with the giant face of Big Brother, the Russians bad Uncle Joe Stalin; fallen nations under the Roman voke were subject to daily exposure to the emperor's face on coins,

wall-reliefs and statuary. To be a despot, first learn to



Let's face it: the application of skin food and moisturiser is not always enough

love your own faces. But the faces we see most represent not power, which can be overthrown, but beauty, for whose demise we must await Time's pleasure. One may resent the face of the glowering hegemonist; to resent beauty seems churlish, but who has not secretly hoped that the latest would not one day wake up looking like the rest of us, and know what it's like? Who has not wished, indeed, that Tony Blair's face would not simply fall off altogether so that we'd never have to see that smirk, those little eyes, those

damnable teeth, ever again? And who has not wished that their own face could be different? I know that if I had a with it favour, delight, lock. We better nose, just the one chin, a chiselled jaw-line, piercing blue eyes - well, my life would have been different. How? I do

not know. But different; better. The daily experience of the truly ugly is unimaginable. Kingsley Amis, in Take A Girl Like You, introduced his ugly one point, Graham quotes Shakespeare: "Eternity was in our lips and eyes,/Bliss in our brows bent." It's not a question of jealousy, Graham explains: it's incomprehension. What are they talking about? What do they mean?

Attraction and beauty are not necessarily congruent; yet beauty - symmetry - brings

are visual creatures; we wear our beauty, or lack of it, at the forefront of our interactions with the world, exactly where we wear our eyes. We gaze, and see the gaze returned, unlike dogs, who have the delicacy to go hehind each other's back to make their judgement. We poor against the judging gaze of others, and so we shave, groom our hair, powder our faces and

The face is a perennial fascination, and so is Daniel Mc-Neill's book. Were he Japanese. he would be said to have gained face. In any case, he can look

paint our eyes as armour

against that searching regard

Trouble shooting

Lesley Chamberlain enjoys a novel that takes issue with the half-truths of the TV headlines

THE CONSPIRACY of half truths behind much television news reporting forms the backdrop to this haunting fiction about the moral and political values of two professional generations. As a wartime civil servant, Daphne, now 74, drew up lists of Italian immigrants to be deported on suspicion of Fascist sympathies. There was little firm evidence, but she felt she did the right thing for her country. Fifty years later, glamorous TV anchor girl Rachel wants to branch out into something meanungful and scents a story - or the

chance to apportion blame. She tries to bring Dapline into contact with a man she blacklisted. But for Dupline, even the facts that the deportees' ship was terpedeed. and innocent parties suffered and died, only reflect "the cruelty of chance and the strangeness of life". The only factor that might have brought her closer to public regret is her unrequiled love for her son, Oliver. He has been under pressure from the cradle to be as rational as his mother, and she dreads letting him down. Of course, it doesn't look that way to him. Thanks to a neat plot, Oliver's evaporating filial promise and general weakness is summed up in the designer relationship be hardly enjoys with Rachel.

Did Daphne do wrong? In his muddle, Oliver might have thought so, had work not left him too exhausted to think. Do we really care? The "issue" plot seems as forced as many such issues in our newspapers, and fails to drive real action because it only equips characters with second-order desires. But the novel takes off as a remarkable piece of thinking when it allows us to compare Daphne's experience with Oliver's, as he makes a documentary in somewhere like Chechnya.

seems to be that we have a moral need to specify an essential element in our life and work as "real". In Daphne's day, that element was supplied by war, patriotism and commitment to family. For Oliver, whose home is instinctively the office, and whose job as a TV producer is to keep mixing Francine Stock in Morocca: the facts until he gets a see page 19



A Foreign Country by Francine Stock Challes & Achille 114 99 227 3

pattern suitable to the no ment, there is no such motor - just a vague behet at unh vidual freedoms. Frying to understand both rebess and government forces in a "go! suphisticated, barely political" land. Oberr hardly grasps what keeps those people going: a sense of national belonging, just as Daphrehad. The charismatic past cum prime minister Mekhus la teases him. A quick interview, then back to some fashionable spot in London? At least my world is real to me.

Marx might have called it post-industrial alienation. None of Stock's characters. not even the aggressivedefensive icon Rachel. dressed for power, is happy about the "desolate landscape of the newsroom" which increasingly frames all our experience. As a graceful and intelligent figure on our screens, and now a voice on the radio, Stock should know.

Both the setting of the "Chechnya" plot and these troubled reflections on spiritual emptiness and the yearning for authenticity recall John le Carré's undoubtedly more successful novel of 1995. Our Game. What Stock underlines is how not only redundant spies and ambitious I, now inhabit a world where all morality and politics seems like mere posturing, as if we were trapped in an endless studio. She reminds us that some of the best real thinking around today is in novels such as A Foreign Country.

tive, brought alive by the mov-

ing and humorous creation of

Faith's colourful extended fam-

ily, and its extraordinary histo-

ry. Jamaica warmly embraces

its long-lost sister, and Faith

To leave behind everything

you know to go in search of a

gets ber life back on track

Born in Vienna a few years after Sigmund Freud, be also studied medicine and fought early battles with the grumbling anti-Semitism of the Habsburg Empire. Freud out his fine gift for psychological narrative into case-histories; this doctorwriter frankly labelled his work as fiction or drama. Yet their shared concern

with extreme states of mind ran in such close parallel that this matching pair of Viennese celebs avoided a meeting right up until the 1920s. Freud said it would be like meeting his doppelganger. No one else after all, had depicted with such finesse the way that fantasy and reality converge in haunted buman souls as we wander through

life with our eyes wide shut. Plodding movie buffs have said that Stanley Kubrick chose a weird title for the version of Arthur Schnitzler's Traumnovelle that he seems to have wrapped up a few days

A WEEK IN BOOKS



BOYD TONKIN

Dr Strange Love goes to Hollywood again

> before his sudden death. I thought it brilliantly apt; the kind of stroke that signalled Kubrick's acute sensitivity to literary sources that stretched from Nabokov to Thackeray to Stephen King. Ouite how his camera will trace that porous boundary between longing and living in Schnitzler remains to be seen. Suffice to say that heavy-breathing interest in Cruise and Kidman's escapades may prove to be a trifle literal-minded.

At any rate, Schnitzler's name now seems in almost better shape in Freud's. Check, for example, the cerie regularity of the scandals prompted by his erotic daisy-chain, Reigen. He wrote the play in 1900, to the outrage of all rightthinking burghers. As the Max Ophuls classic La Ronde, the 1950 film gave a silken come-on to the first hints of postwar permissiveness. Then, in the century's dying months, David Hare's The Blue Room had critics gushing

finger on our pulse. Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics will issue an edition of the Dream Story in the summer to greet Eyes Wide Shut. But readers need not wait until then for a fresh fix from its ageless anthor Angel Books has released Schnitzler's Selected Short Fiction in a strong new translation by J M Q Davies (£8.95). The

over "theatrical Viagra". Dr

Schnitzler does keep his

translation matters a lot, as Schnitzler's fiction pioneered the use of inner monologues in voices that closely match the speaker's mind and role. In the tragic stream-of-consciousnes Fraülein Else, Joyce seems to shake hands with Freud as a doomed society girl succumbs to male sexual hypocrisies. For that sad jobsworth Lieutenant Gustl, on the other hand, pompous bigotry mingles with a comic pathos that turns him into an Austro-

So Schnitzler's swirling waltz of love, death and delusion looks set fair to play through its second finde-siècle. One silly, selfdramatising type is even described as having "rolled his eyes and comically assumed the melodramatic tone of a Lewinsky" - Josef, that is, a famous ham on the Vienna stage. Now there's a clue for avid genealogists.

Hungarian ancestor of Alan

Bennett's Talking Heads.

A high mind in Jamaica

Andrea Henry wonders where the second generation feels most at home

JUST OVER 50 years ago, Britain became home to the first West Indian immigrants to arrive en masse, as part of a government initiative. Five hundred people, mostly men, arrived, not on a banana boat - according to the old racist taunt with which Andrea Levy's third novel opens – but on a former troop ship. More followed, and some did travel on banana boats. The passengers had berths, and the bananas were kept in the hold. With their children and their children's children, they now contribute to

the black population of Britain. Faith Jackson, the narrator of Fruit of the Lemon, is a second-generation Jamaican, as is Andrea Levy. What it means to be Black British is the novel's subject. Faith has grown up unaware of her colour and ignorant of her heritage, courtesy of



by Andrea Levy Review, £16.99, 340pp

her parents' struggle. She has ught herself in control of her life. But, having taken a degree, set up home with white friends. and secured a job with the quintessentially English BBC, being black becomes an issue. It occurs to Faith that life for

a black person is not the same as for a white person, however educated or well-spoken, however much a "coconut" (white on the inside) one is. The revelation

hits her like a slap in the face. Her parents pack her off on a voyage of self-discovery to Jamaica, "Home".

This is a book of two very dis-

tinct halves, of which the first. "England", is a disappointingly flat read. Levy's portrait of a typical Jamaican family is just that: typical. Her scenarios are weary and her characters are stereotypes, although the expose of Faith's working-class "friends", who like to call a spade a spade, is close enough to the bone to be insightful. On the whole, bowever, Levy slavishly ticks off the clichés, managing to make throbbing issues such as mixed relationships feel so tired and lame, it is just possible that the trawl is a deliberate ploy to make the sec-

ond half seem more vibrant.

If so, it works. By contrast,

new beginning - with the future of your children, and your children's children in mind - is one of the greatest of Romantic

images because it is one of the hardest things to do. Is it harder or easier for the children of immigrants, black and white, to focus on where they are going when more than half an eve must be kept on where they bave come from? It is a precarious balancing act, but Levy firmly believes everyone should know where they have come from, for the past deeply affects

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Night read by Art Malik HarperCallins, 3hrs, £8.99

read by Derek Jacobi HarperCollins, 3hrs, £8.99 APOLOGIES FOR rather

"WHY DO audiobooks need reviewing?" said a a flood of Derek Jacobi spoken-word philistine to recommendations, but me the other day. "Surely Iris, A Memoir is quite they're all the same, just simply one of the best audiobooks I've ever books read aloud." Art Malik's powerful and pacy beard. I didn't buy the presentation of Shani book, not being a fan of Mootoo's Cereus Blooms Murdoch's novels and unable to imagine that I at Night ought to be enough to convert him. could enjoy any sort of No; on second thoughts. account of her decline into he is much too Alzheimer's. But I was conservative to enjoy this quickly hooked by the horrific but life-enhancing love, wisdom and humour story of savage incest, so disarmingly, openly madness and redemption. offered by John Bayley. But it's a fine example of There is also much how much an excellent unconventional but reader adds to a text remarkably nourishing and how an astute food for thought about the abridger judges just nature of marriage, all what is bearable heard greatly enhanced by aloud and what is not. Jacobi's candid, Trust me, try it. unhurried reading.



The Place Flying: Jumbo jet, glider, anything. A spaceship would be terrific. An aircraft cabin is a place that seems to be nowhere, but I find it steeped in the place left behind and the place ahead.

The Play Two of the first plays I saw after I arrived in Britain were King Lear in Liverpool, and Antony and Cleopatra at Stratford. One was produced with bardly a backdrop and the other with gigantic scene

two: the words and their life beyond the stage. The Film Hitchcock was important in my novel, The Sandglass, and plays a cameo part in the reflections of Pearl, who

loves Suspicion and The

Thirty-Nine Steps.

changes, I was impressed

by what connected the



The tiny black statue of an Indus valley girl dancing from about 2000BC which I saw in a museum, in Delhi, 15 years ago. It is only the size of a finger but it seems to speak across the millennia.

The Music I find anonymous music frees me best. Chinese pop can be perfect. I can't decipher anything on the CD label, there is nothing I can hang on to. Then I get a real lift: I recognise something unexpectedly familiar and discover something surprisingly new at the same time.

Romesh Gunesekera's latest novel is The Sandglass' (Granta, £6.99)

THE FUNNIEST BOOK I'VE EVER READ, PERHAPS THE FUNNIEST **BOOK EVER WRITTEN'**

A hilarious tale. experify told, I recommend this book unreservedly

Independent on Sunday

Really funny Independent

Hilarious' The Speciator

A searing and utterly brilliant expose of tabloid television" Daily Mail

5.30pm Sunday 21 March



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The Word at the Barbican 21-28 March Presented by The Barbican Library

The Word 75 The London Festival of Literature

3.00pm Sunday 21 March

Terry Pratchett The author of the Discworld Series will be here to amuse, surprise and delight in interview.

Richard Holmes: The London Biography Lecture Biography - Life or Death? Richard Holmes cross-questions his art and quizzes the work of some contemporary biographers

7.30pm Sunday 21 March Joseph Heller An interview with the author of Catch 22 and Claring Time, who will also answer questions from the audience.

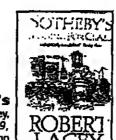
Tickets £7.00 (£5.50 concessions)
Book for any two events at £12.00 (£10.00 concessions) or for all three events at £16.00 (£14.50 concessions) Call for a leaflet giving details of other Word events at the Barbican







BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST



HORSE

Sotheby's by Robert Lacey, Warner, £8.99, 354pp

The Penguin

Book of

edited by

DESPITE SOME odd omissions (Swift,

Surtees), Baker provides a lively canter

from adolescent favourites (My Friend

Flicko, Black Beauty) to a scatological

fragment from de Bernières. Horses

Hemingway; a fable about greed from

roguery on the race-track from

round equine literature. Her choice ranges

inspire literary giants in unexpected ways:

Lawrence; a tender tragedy from Runyon. Authors as diverse as Jim Crace and M E

Patchett explore the rapport between man

and beast, but many readers will empathise

with Carroll's White Knight. "Any bones

broken?" asked Alice. "None to speak of."

the Horse

Candida Baker.

Penguin, £7.99.

AFTER RETAILING the history of the auction house a touch dutifully, Lacey's account takes off when the raffish Peter Wilson enters the company in 1939. After war service in MI5 (his number was 007). the "old twister" became Sotheby's public face for almost 40 years. During which time, this august institution lent its name to a cigarette brand (not a success), while the accounts dept used the Bond Street premises for orgies. In order to finance a dubious silver deal, Wilson offloaded his shares before a set of poor annual profits. As a result, Sotheby's spent a decade as a subsidiary of General Felt industries.

The Stillest Day by Josephine Hart. Vintage, £5.99, 210pp

HUSBANDS AND wives don't last long in Josephine Hart povels. Nor do their poor offspring. Like her previous novels, Damage, Sin and Obsession, her latest is a highly-charged period melodrama that reeks of guilty secrets and the grave. It's clear from the start that a tragedy of Hardyesque proportions awaits country school ma'am Bethesda Barnet. Falling for her next-door neighbour (and the school's new English master), she takes to pressing her ear against his bedroom wall. Passions spill over and the repressed spinster ends up committing an unspeakable act over the tea-cups.

Ready to

Should

He Fall

by Neil Bardett, Neil Bar

NEIL BARTLETT'S novel of gay sex in the

Nineties begins and ends with Madame -

together two of London's most desirable

men with "arse-stounding" results. More

than just a catalogue of choreographed

erotica, Bartlett's story of "O" (the older

man) and "Boy" (just 19), their courtship

and eventual marriage, is told with the kind

of chummy curiosity that leads the reader

the writer himself. First published in 1991;

critically acclaimed Who Was That Man?, a

to suppose he is as much in on the act as

Bartlett's subsequent novels include the

meditation on Oscar Wilde.

an ageing cabaret artiste who brings

Catch Him

£6.99, 313pp





FORGET THE tawdry confections of the BBC's Changing Rooms; if you really want a home with a difference, this is the book to buy. Lavish colour spreads enable you imaginatively to inhabit the cutting edge of domestic architecture: a minimalist castle by John Pawson in Mallorca, an Australian beach house like a vast packing case, the "assumed disorder" of Frank Gehry's Minnesota guest house (six one-room buildings), a house in the Californian desert like an expressionist theatre set, a glass cube in Japan which forces inhabitants into "private, though unpleasantly crowded downstairs rooms". Which is chez vous?

A Gift

242pp

not be the most seductive topic in the

THE POETIC life of Matthew Arnold may

world, but lan Hamilton is one of our most

readable literary critics. In this absorbing

flowered after the death of his starchy dad,

number of Frenchwomen, in particular the

mysterious Marguerite, Matthew produced

to his father's arid morality, returned to the

straight and narrow, passing 30 years as a

schools inspector. Duty sucked him dry.

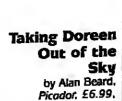
account, be reveals that Arnold's talent

the headmaster of Rugby. Inspired by a

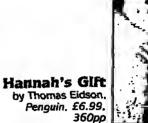
some hot stuff: "Ah, they bend nearer -Sweet lips, this way!" This emotional outpouring ceased when Arnold, in homage

Imprisoned

by lan Hamilton, Bloomsbury, £7.99,



165pp A WRITER of the kind of short stories tailor-made for Radio 4: Alan Beard's tales of West Midland folk are comic, sad and quietly downbeat. Hedged in by boring jobs and tatty homes, his characters take refuge in postalgia and sex, and, failing that, the odd urban riot. Particularly good on worn-out marriages, Beard's best stories include "Dad, Mum, Paula and Tom", about a son who catches his dad sleeping with his brother's girlfriend (while his mum explores the Internet), and "Country Life", in which an expectant father takes refuge from reality in the arms of a blonde from work.



IF YOU'RE not man enough for the novels of Cormac McCarthy, Thomas Eidson writes the B-movie version. A mystical Western set in the brush covered deserts of New Mexico and Arizona, Eidson's tale relates the story of tough, but tender, lawman Tucker Gibbens and the woman who saves his life. A recent widower, Tucker carries around his memories like a sore thumb; injured in a shoot-out, he falls for the auburn-haired beauty who miraculously brings him back to life.
Apaches and ambushes and mesquite burning fires - the American West at its rootin' tootin' best.

BESTSELLERS

Reaching parts that no other charity can, Red Nose Day has infiltrated the bestseller lists this week: Five Go Mad in the Kitchen, published to coincide with yesterday's event and containing an enthusiastic collection of recipes, not necessarily all of which one would want to eat, goes straight in

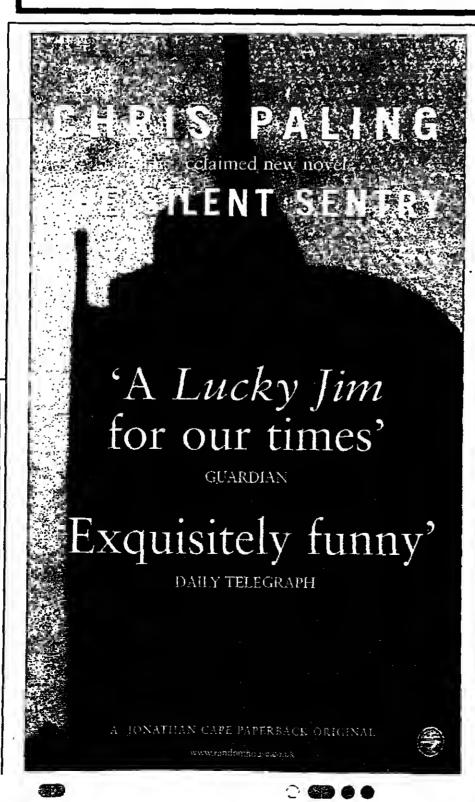
at number one on the non-fiction lists. That leaves Alan Titchmarsh free to challenge the position in a week's time. Old-timer, Bernard Cornwell's latest Sharpe story has knocked the heavily-hyped newcomer. Come Together, off the top of the non-fiction list, while Catherine Cookson is stuck

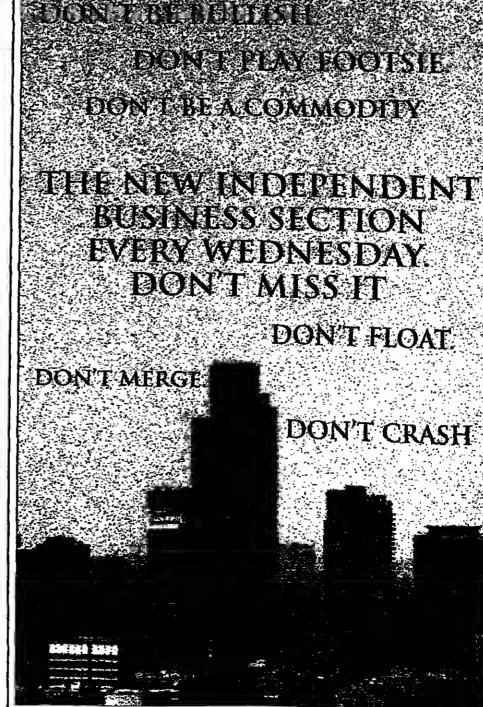
firm in afth position: that should please Bantam who still have a couple of her unpublished manuscripts waiting in the wings... Compiled from data supplied on sales over seven days ending

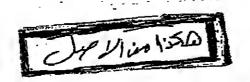
6 Bookwatch Ltd, 1999

ORIGINAL FICTION ORIGINAL NON-FICTION

	11765	VO I HONOLOBEISMEN	-MICE	MERKTA DUTER		TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE.	MUNKIA 24TP2
									*
(4)	Sharpe's Fortress	Bernard Cornwell (HarperCollins)	£16.99	5,877	1 (-)	5 Go Mad in the Kitchen	Various authors (New Crane)	£1	4,197
(2)	The Testament	John Grisham (Century)	£16.99	5,747	2 (7)	Ground Force Whaleed	Alan Titchmarsh (BBC)	£9.99	3,348
(3)	Single & Single	John le Carré (Hodder)	£16.99	4,738	3 (1)	Station X	Michael Smith (Channel 4)	£14.99	3,324
(1)	Come Together	Josle Lloyd & Emlyn Rees (Arraw)	£5,99_	4.428	4 (3)	Little Book of Fang Shu	Ullian Too (Element)	£1,99	2,90
(5)	The Thursday Friend	Catherine Cookson (Bantam Press)	£16.99	2,152	5 (2)	Men are From Mars	John Gray (Thorsons)	£8,99	· 2.52
(6)	Caroline's Sister	Shella O'Flanagan (Poolbeg)	£5,99	1,169	6 (8)	MV Formula One Golde	Bruce Jones (Carlton)	£5,99	2.354
(-)	Night Whispers	Judith McNaught (Pocket)	£5.99	1,169	7 (6)	Dalla's How to Cook	Delia Smith (BBC)	£16.99	1,811
(9)	Messlah	Boris Starling (HarperCollins)	£5.99	1,120	8 (4)	The Year 1000	R Lacey & D Danziger (Little, Brown)	£12.99	1,648
(10)	Southern Cross	Patricia D Cornwell (Little, Brown)	£16.99	1,081	9 (5)		Rick Stein (BBC)	£18.99	1.616
(6)	Liar Birds	Lucy Fitzgerald (Black Swan)	£5.99	1,078	10 (-)	Time Team	Tim Taylor (Channel 4)	£18.99	1.282







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WEEKEND REVIEW dependent 13 March 1999

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COUNTRY MATTERS



DUFF HART-DAVIS

n farms all over the western Midlands. Gloucestershire Old Spots pigs are being spruced up for their annual show and le, due to take place at Ledbury 17 April. This will be the third w organised by the GOS Pig eeders' Club, and it will mark a rther stage in the rehabilitation of splenfiel animal. An Old Spot – the "s" is normally

opped in everyday usage - is a avy, lop-eared creature, with big, ack splodges on a whitish backound. The breed was not formally sistered until 1913, but everynere in our part of the country pubs, on postcards, on trays ere are representations of spotted s taken from paintings at least 150 ars old, and it is clear that the imals, or something like them, exed early in the 19th century.

Thirty years ago the breed de-oed to a low ebb, but now it is ongly in the ascendant, owing rtly to the enthusiasm of a few icated farmers and partly to the action of consumers against the llid pork which is all that superirkets are prepared to handle. Old pts and recognised as endangered the Kare Breeds Survival Trust t the club now has more than 600 digree sows on its register.

Among modern owners, few are ener than Eric Freeman, who eps the pigs on his farm at ynton, near Gloucester. As be ts it: "They're much the happiest ng in the open, so they lend mselves to the movement for eatanimals that have been looked er kindly, and naturally fed." Also, says: "They're quite characters, ne of them. What they get up to metimes you can't help falling on gate and laughing."

in earlier times Old Spots were wn as orchard pigs, because lived in the cider orchards of Severn Vale, grazing the sward es, and guzzling on windfall lest's the autumn until (it was d) their meat acquired a magily sweet flavour. Legend bas it t the black spots were originally uses, caused by the impact of ing fruit.



Happiest in an orchard: the Gloucester Old Spot has a certain fondness for cider apples. Watercolour painted by James Lynch in 1989 Bridgemon Art Library

Another staunch fan was the late-lamented Jasper Ely, who had an orchard at Priding, beside the Severn, and I shall never forget the Hogarthian scene in his cider shed when the barvest was coming in. Casks full of last year's brew were ranged along one wall. At the far end, two young men would be toiling at the press that squeezed the apple pulp. The floor was running with juice. Jasper himself, his halo of white beard and hair surmounted by a blue nautical cap, was propped ainst a doorpost, tankard in hand, shouting out: "Don't fuck about, you going on sale. two! Keep turning!"

The smell of apples blended in-extricably with that of pigs, for over a wooden partition a buge sow was

"Old Spot sow wi' thur'een on 'er!" and every now and then somebody tipped a bucket of crushed apples over the wall, so that by nightfall the sow was as high as the men were.

Jasper used to collect spent grain from the brewery in Uley, a village nearby, and feed it to his pigs. When Chas Wright, the brewer, brought out a chocolate-dark strong ale, there was only one name for it. As he points out, many strong ales are called "Old Something" - Old Peculier, Old Roger, Owd Bob - because

Thus the new beer inevitably became Old Spot - as did a pub in the town of Dursley, when Chas took an interest in it. Last year the Old Spot suckling her litter. A man with a was runner-up in the National Pub squeaky voice kept announcing: of the Year competition-and so, one

way or another, the name is going strong in the county. Yet it is the excellence of their flesh, rather than on of the poor, who flourished at the sentimental memory, that is really bringing spotted pigs back. To Andy Binks, a butcher now working at the Chesterton Farm Shop on the outskirts of Cirencester: "They give an old-fashioned meat, firm, with a

good grain and real flavour. The pork

you get from commercially grown

pigs just has no fat. Unless you've

got apple sauce with it, if you shut

your eyes you wouldn't be able to tell One important difference lies in the fact that the Old Spots handled by Chesterton's are all free-range. agricultural reformer and champiend of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th.

Cobbett urged every cottager to

keep a pig as a vital part of the domestic economy, and he was adamant about its preparation for the table. The bristles, be laid down, must be removed from the skin by burning rather than by scalding, because the taste of meat from a singed bog was far superior to that calded one. He there gave precise instructions as to how the freshly killed pig should be "laid on a narrow bed of straw, not Another derives from the way in wider than his carcass, and only two which the pigs' carcasses are treat-ed after being slaughtered - and covered all over thinly with straw, here sounds a fascinating echo of to which, according as the wind may

William Cobbett, the vociferous be, the fire is put at one end." Today the method is more refined, but the aim is exactly the same. Whereas in big slaughterbouses pigs are scalded in boiling water, those destined for the Chesterton shop are kept dry, the bristles being scraped and shaved off. The result is crackling such as most people

have never tasted. The pigs shown in old paintings have barely credible dimensions: bloated rectangles teetering on tiny pins, they could hardly have survived You long to know bow they would have squared up against Foston Sambo the 21st, the Old Spot who holds the record for the highest price paid for any pig in Britain; he fetched 4,000 guineas (£4,200) when sold at auction in 1994.

NATURE NOTES

IT WAS no surprise to learn that in the West Country a cock pheasant has become so ferocious as to prevent a postman delivering the mail. At this time of year game birds grow highly aggressive in defence of their adopted mating territories: apparently losing all fear of man, they recklessly stake all in keeping intruders off their patch.

Even now a pair of greylag geese hand-reared by a neighbouring furmer are making it hazardous for any vehicle to drive along



Make my day: grouse in attack mode

the lane past his house. Hissing, bowing and weaving, the gander is quite ready to take on any car that comes along. Grouse are particularly

fierce: males often attack, and sometimes kill, each other, pecking at the back of rivals' heads. The other day, on a Yorkshire moor, I came across a cock grouse and a man in what looked like oneto-one conversation. Enquiries revealed that the bird, which must have weighed all of a pound and a half, had just physically attacked the 12-stone human being, who was

innocently going for a stroll, Females have a different method of protecting their young. Pheasants. partridges, duck and grouse will all simulate injury, ttering oathetic across a field as if with a broken wing, to decoy intruders away from their broods, before flying off. DUFF HART-DAVIS

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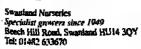
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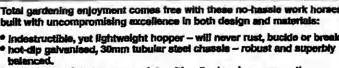
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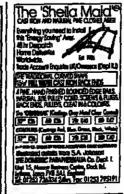
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The secret is in the breeding

The subtle, enchanting Barnhaven primulas have been lovingly safeguarded through the generations. Anna Pavord tracks down the genuine article

he secret to having a good garden, said a friend of mine, is to find out what likes you and then grow a lot of it. It's good advice, but I don't always follow it. "Oh, please let's he friends," I plead, as I crouch over a myrtle that would obviously prefer to he anywhere else but in our patch. "Do stay, do stay," I beg a ranunculus that is edging out of a border like a guest trying to escape from a really BAD party.

So it was a pleasure to return from two weeks away and find the which evidently are prepared to like us. Clumps of a white Barnhaven primula, one of the few varieties that I got around to splitting last year, are now flowering between dark hlue hyacinths and the low, pale, ferny foliage of sweet cicely, Myrrhis odoratn. In another group the colours are reversed, with white hyacinths and a stray bit of Euphorbia robbine which absent-mindedly wandered off from the place in which it had been put, partnering hlue cowichan primulas. I grew them years ago from Jared Sinclair's Barnhaven seed.

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He is now one of the many ghosts that haunt our garden - I hope happily. Nine years ago, the last-ever hrown envelopes of primula seed arrived from this extraordinary Cumbrian seed specialist "Farewell", said the note that came with them. "On battered wings we are finally buzzing off. Maybe in years to come we'll be croaking 'Wasn't it fun' and fall cackling from our perches. Maybe."

"Cherish them," said Jared about of tender plants. his extraordinary plants. "They will be with you longer than we will." I sowed a mixture of coloured primroses called Butterscotch', copper,

rich crimson pinks, and another pot of polyanthus 'Rustic Reds' the colours of tawny wallflowers. Never have I felt so anxious about seed. It was worse than being an accoucheur to kings.

But that was a long time ago and though the garden is bright with primulas, the strain is no longer pure Barnhaven, They have been crossing with all the other primroses in the garden and I have not been rigorous enough about weeding out these self-sown bastards. Though cross-hred, they are still extragarden brimming with primroses. ordinarily pretty; smudgy colours of pewter, hronze, grey purple and dirty pink. So, of course, I had to go to Sonia Wright's nursery in Wiltshire to make good the damage. She is one of the saviours who keep the Barnhaven strain of primroses alive and available. My plan was to replace the navy hlue cowichan primroses I had lost.

> But Ms Wright's primroses were all in flower too, and it would have been criminal to have left behind the plant with petals as deep as oxblood damask. And one grey-hlue Barn-haven primrose (from the Muted Victorian series) looked awfully lonely on its own. And so it went on...

Ms Wright started the nursery (she describes it as "a wide and somewhat eccentric collection") five years ago, on a windy plot of ground she had borrowed from a neighbour. Her office is in a high, rust-coloured old shepherd's van parked on the edge of the field. From this retreat, the smell of properly made coffee drifts out over the polytunnel in which she overwinters her collection

The Barnhaven primulas do not need that kind of cosseting. They are lined up outside against the fence. flowering in the face of wind, hail and

polyanthus 'Valentine Victorians'. the roots rot if the compost gets too wet. The plants are happier if they are planted out in open ground. My own soil is heavy, damp clay, which they seem to enjoy, and they grow

Ms Wright has been gardening, she says, since she was three. She perately wanted to train at Kew, but her father suggested she got "a proper job"; it has taken half a lifetime to get where she wanted to be at the beginning. She first started growing plants to feed her gardendesign husiness (she still does de sign too), but the nursery grew and grew. Initially, she didn't want to sell any of the treasures she had begun hoarding up around her, but she had to, so that she could buy time to acquire and grow even more. The nursery's growth and her success are "a constant surprise", she says.

The demand for the kind of plants she grows - columbines, iris, grasses, spurges - terrifies and excites her in almost equal measure. Occasionally she wobbles on her crested wave. "I see this wave quite clearly," she says. "A designer wave. of course. Usually that one you see in Japanese woodcuts, the curling one with the lacy edge."

It was her designer's eye that drew her to the Barnhaven primulas in the first place; the flowers were the right size for the leaves, the colours were muted and unexpected. "The Barnhavens are the colours of old-fashioned vegetable dyes. Most of the primroses and polyanthus you see in garden centres are more harshly coloured, like modern chemical dyes."

Like so many good things, the Barnhaven primulas can be traced back to Gertrude Jekyll, who, at the turn of this century, first started selecting different-coloured strains of primroses in her garden at Mun- some time Florence Bellis had



Sonia Wright with primrose and polyanthus selection at her nursery in Stitchcombe, near Marlborough

on them until 1896, when several seed companies, including Suttons, began to offer seed of her strains.

By chance, the American Florence Bellis, an out-of-work pianist, sensibly spent her last five dollars on four packets of the Sutton/Jekyll primroses. In her garden at Barnhaven, Oregon, she continued the work that Jekyli had begun. She crossed and counter-crossed varieties, producing over a period of 30 years more and more types of the primrose that was by then stamped

nurseryman Jared Sinclair and his wife Sylvia. One day he received a parcel of seed from Mrs Bellis, with a cryptic note "Yours to keep or kill". Heroically, in his freezing, opensided growing shed, he kept (and developed) her flowers, until, after 20 years, he had had enough.

The torch then passed to an academic librarian, Angela Bradford, who continues to produce and send out seed of Barnhaven primulas from her garden in Brittany. Sonia Wright's plants are all grown from with the name of her home. For this seed Provided the seed is kept cool, this is not difficult to do. Sow

smallish pot. Cover the seed with fine grit and leave the pot somewhere shady until you see signs of the first leaves (this may take as much as six weeks). Then prick out the seedlings and grow them on to flower next season, If you are impatient (like me) and want colour NOW, trawl the nurseries.

Sonia Wright's nursery is at The Old Vineyard, Grove Farm, Stitch-combe, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2NG Tel: 01672 514003. It is open all year (10am to dusk) every day except Wednesday and Sunday. bronze, apricot and yellow, a pot of tempest. The only difficulty is that stead Wood, in Surrey. She worked been in touch with the Cumbrian now on the top of compost in a You can also get some strains of 296 35 31 540

have to raise enough money to

doubt, it would not be neces-

sary for an organisation such

as the Brogdale Trust to

depend on such an arrange-

ment to secure its future. But

Hillreed'a action has enor-

mously boosted morale at

Brogdale. As Jane Garrett, the

chief executive, says: "Confi-

Sponsorship deals are being made, and funds are

now forthcoming for a number

of educational projects. Education of the public is one of

the Trust'a main objectives.

and one with which it has

been highly successful in the

decade since Brogdale opened

to visitors. The Trust already

has planning permission for a

number of imaginative fruit

gardens on the site, and

intends to put in a hid for

National Lottery money

should Hillreed's application

be successful Having seen the

plans for myself, I am rather

hoping that the future's bright,

the future's apple.

dence has broken out."

In a perfect world, no

huy back the land.

Barnhaven primulas from Abriachan Nurseries, Loch Ness Side, Inverness, Inverness-shire, IV2 6LA (01463 861232); Ryal Nursery, East Form Cottage, Ryal, Northumberland NE20 OSA (01661 886562); or Field House Nurseries, Leake Road, Gotham. Nottinghamshire NG11 0JN (01159 830278). Michael Loftus also has many of them at his nursery. Wootten's Plants at Wenhaston, Blackheath, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 9HD (01502 478258). For seed. contact Angela Bradford at Barnhaven Primroses, Langerhouad, 22420 Plouzelambre, France 100 33

SPLIT CLUMPS of snowdrops and aconites as they finish flowering, and replant with a handful of bonemeal Many roses have not lost

their foliage at all this winter, hut if you have not already tackled them, do it immediately. Cut out dead wood, then all spindly stems and suckers. That will be enough for oldfashioned roses. Hybrid teas need sterner treatment: follow each stem upwards until you come to a likely-looking outward-facing hud and cut the stem off above it. A quicker way is to shear over the top of HT roses with a hedge-clipper.

WEEKEND Work



Boost tired box hedges with a general fertiliser, such as Growmore or Vitax Q4. Use roughly 20z for every yard of hedge. For hideously leggy hedges, try cutting them back hard. leaving 4-5in of stem. Feed if they start to resprout.

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They may not. Box is not as forgiving as yew. Cut to the ground shrubs such as rubus, grown for their winter stems. If you have not already done so, shear off the old foliage of periwinkle to make way for new shoots now springing up through the dross. Summer-flowering hulbs should be planted as soon as possible. Parkers, of 452 Chester Road,

Manchester M16 9HL (0161-872 3517) are offering 10 nerines for £2 and a wide selection of lilies, including 10 'Mont Blanc' for £3 and 10 of the deep pink and white July-flowering 'Stargazer' for £4.50. All

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Saving the apples of Prince Charles's eye

A corner of the Garden of England which is devoted to preserving thousands of fruit varieties is itself under threat. By Ursula Buchan

BROGDALE, NEAR Faversham in Kent, home of the National Fruit Collections, is a place close to the hearts of keen fruit gardeners everywhere. This is partly because of the inherent fascination of the place, where 2,500 varieties of apples - including one dating from Roman times - at least 500 pears, and a myriad of plums and cherries, grow. It enjoys the best fruitgrowing conditions possible in our climate, and is situated Fill to the coupon and send together with cheque or postal orders. NO CASH please to - THE INDEPENDENT ROOTMASTER OFFER, 59 Queens Road. Southend on Sea. Essex SSI INL. smack in the middle of what is left of the "fruit garden

I suspect that the goodwill that Brogdale generates may also stem from sympathy engendered by the financial vicissitudes which have dogged it for more than 10 years, and have resulted, on several occasions, in its being saved from closure at the 11th hour

First it was the Prince of Wales who rode to its rescue in 1990, when changes in government funding led to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) being forced to pull the financial plug on what had been an im-

portant fruit research station. HRH stepped in and, together with the local council, Swale, provided a sufficient mortgage for the Brogdale Trust to be set up. It could then continue to cultivate the National Fruit Collections, with some help in running costs from Maff, and open to the public. (Maff owns the National Fruit Collections, but the Trust provides the home and the organisation for them to be visited.) This mortgage, it was agreed, would be paid off over 10 years, ending in 2000. Unfortunately, not enough



Brogdale: still blossoming

provide a new visitors' centre, to date has been raised by puboffices, a laboratory and varlic appeals to pay off the mortgage. The Trust has therefore ious other facilities. been feverishly active for the It remains to be seen

last year in trying to secure Brogdale's long-term future. It is possible that it has succeeded. The Trust was introduced by one of its Friends to a Kent firm of developers, Hillreed, which has bought the entire estate of 149 acres from the Duchy of Cornwall and Swale Borough Council and paid off the mortgage. The Trust is currently a tenant, but and to prevent dispersal of the Hillreed has promised to give National Fruit Collections. back 141 acres, provided it can This application will be build houses on the remaining considered in the next three eight acres, most of which is months. The consequences classified as "brown-field" of failure would be serious for land. It has promised also to the Trust, for it would then

Brogdale Slide Library

If you wish to support this whether Hillreed will get planscheme, write to Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Brogdale ning permission to establish a residential development of 89 Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ. The Trust is also offering houses in an area where such development would not nortwo-for-the-price-of-one ticket to Independent readers, mally be contemplated. The Trust hopes, however, that it who bring n copy of this artiwill be considered as an cle with them, to see Brogdale "enabling development", during blossom time (Tickets, £2.50, available from 20 March deemed necessary for the until the end of June, include continued viability of the Trust a guided tour); e-mail: infor-

mation@brogdale.org.uk or www.brogdale.org.uk Ursula Buchan's latest book, Plants for All Seasons' is published by Mitchell Beazley (£16.99)

CUTTINGS NEWS FROM THE GARGENERS' WORLD

Millennium trees 3: oak The oak is Britain's favourite tree, according to NOP. The top 10 were oak. weeping willow, silver hirch, apple, beech, chestnut, cherry, pine, maple and ash. Only three of those are on my own list of trees worth planting to celebrate the millennium. Oak, ash and beech are all sturdy British natives, and there are not enough of them about

You need to take a deep breath before you plant an oak. They are trees for large open spaces. The native oak Quercus robur can easily reach 70ft. Beside the drive leading to Leeds Castle in Kent there is a tree 135ft tall, with a trunk 12ft round.



The "Crimea Oak" at Althorp, Northants is 72ft high; at Dunkeld Cathedral

in Perth there is one 105ft high They spread wide, too. There are good foreign oaks, such as the Algerian oak Quercus canariensis and the chestnut-leaved oak. Q castaneifolia from the Caucasus, but for a millennium planting, only an English one will do. There are various selected forms of Q robur such as 'Concordia', which has bright yellow spring growth and 'Atropurpurea', with reddish-purple leaves. But it is very slow-growing, and for seemliness and fitness for purpose the common English oak is the one I ... would choose.

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cally to surround the root. As you remove Rootmaster from the soil the jaws close removing both weed and root - it's that easy! Res in Regulard (Sursian) Landyrouless Vers spapers (U.S.) Lieb. Reg. (Milley: I Carolin Square, Caroly Whent Landson E.H. SDI



INDEPENDENT ADVICE FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER: FROM THE ONLY NATIONAL NEWSPAPER TRAVEL SECTION THAT REFUSES FREE TRIPS

With Atlas at its shoulder

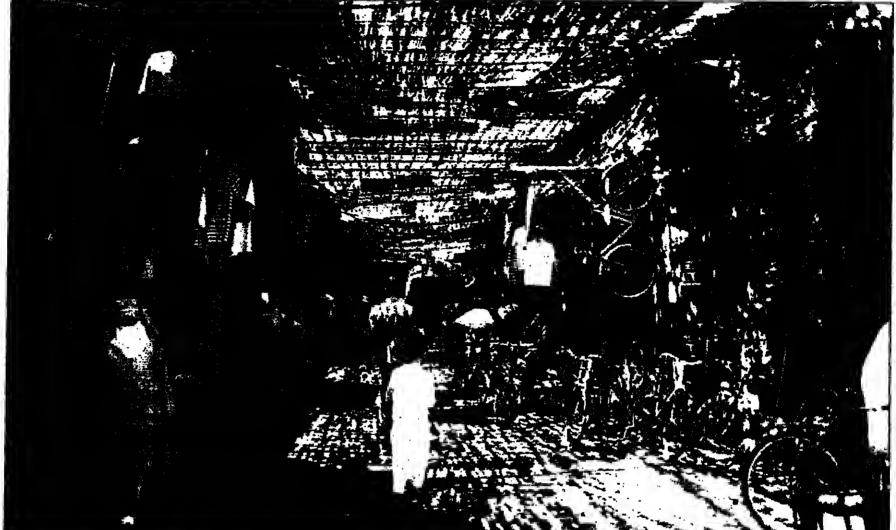
Hippies, hashish and hassle, the stereotyped image of Marrakesh lives on. But, as Francine Stock discovered, it can make or an ideal, if unusual, family holiday, while Antonia Donajgrodzka found a tranquil retreat in Yves Saint Laurent's garden

the hippie trail, it's the place have found your when friends' brothers returned, stubbled and shaggy, I'd always wanted to go. Later, I thought it might be all over, that the moment was past - for me, at least. Then there was the question of whether the children would enjoy it; but now that they're an adventurous seven and four, we reckoned they'd be intrigued. And we promised them snake-charmers. We flew, in the evering via Casablanca, arriving at Marrakesh at a grouchy 10.30pm. But once out of the terminal, everyone fell quiet, heads tilted back in contemplation of the big African sky.

The hotel, Les Deux Tours, was a few miles ontside the city, on the outskirts of a ritzy suburb, La Palmeraie, down an unmade road. Outside the gate, which is framed by two massive towers, lies a tiny hamlet with mud-walled houses and a small flock of sheep. Inside, great candle lanterns lit our way down the drive and into a central area from which ran alleyways and paths end doors of a series of six separate villas. Each sits within its own walled garden and has a small pool.

The rooms lie in groups about these villas. Our suite was on the first floor and ran around two sides of a continued. The main bedroom was some 25ft long; on one side it gave on to a veranda, with an open fire at the far end. In the corner was a domed bathroom, whose vaulted brick ceiling stretched 20 feet towards the stars. The walls were a milky-cocoa red, inset with bright mosaic, with blue and green herringbone tiles on the floor. The girls' room, which connected via the veranda, had its own terrace.

By comparison with the low dwellings out on the road, the architecture of Les Deux Tours is like Xanadu. You have the impression of crumbling splendour, the joke is that the whole construction is less than a decade old, designed by Charles Boccara - the Sir Norman Foster of Morocco. Great bulkheads of terraces from over outsized palms loversumpet flowers. Meals were accompanied, rather than led, us



The bright Moroccan sunlight filters down through a louvered roof in fine shards, dissecting the gloom of Marrakesh's souk

Robert Harding Picture Library

at night, by an open fire in a small, informal dining-room. Cats prowled through the corridors and gardens and slept in the clefts of fig trees. It was the antithesis of an international, functional hotel and we adored it.

The city centre was a 20-minute drive away. The souk is unexpectedly vast. The bright light filters only in fine slices into the gloom from the louvred roof. The first day we took a guide, an act which represented a mighty collapse of principle, but served either on your own terrace or, round the various areas of this al Fna, we found those snake- whole the children were fascinated Roseraie is your international was both ironic and genuine. We ex- Country, is reviewed on page 15

canopied city-within-a-city. We saw charmers, with their languorous tailors and silk-spinners, the purveyors of spices, bark and twig medicines and - a big hit - the bentwood cages of tiny, khaki tortoises, crawling in layers upon each other,

interleaved with bright lettuce leaves. Rebecca, our elder daughter, suddenly acquired a young lime-green chameleon which had been placed on the sleeve of her black shirt. Withto seconds he was sympathetically

and giant shrubs with red-and-yel- and source of fascinating detail as he parents to say it could never work. higher dialogue, obviously. On the great square, the Djemaa

the blacksmiths and shoemakers, the charges. The Man Who Talks to Birds sat on the edge of a large rug with various props - an old packet of soap powder, an electrical fitting, small dishes of bright powders spread out across it. The birds, large doves, chatted quietly with one another on the opposite edge, casually turning their backs on the great sage. We watched for several minutes, along with a dozen or so

locals, then we dutifully dropped our

rather than intimidated. Chutches of small kids would dash up to kiss and hug them and Rebecca felt sometimes that this was simply ridicule. But then tourists are ridiculous.

Once you move away from the centre, you can see how Marrakesh lies against the backdrop of the snow-covered Atlas mountains, An hour-and-a-half's drive into the Berber footbills, we stayed a couple of nights at Ouirgane, at La Roseraie. The scenery was impressive but, as the girls said, the hotel was "posher but not nearly as beautiful There was hassle, but on the -or as mice" as Les Deux Tours. La manager, with an expression that Froncine Stock's novel, 'A Foreign

country club-type establishment, but rather run-down and with mediocre food. However, it has excellent stables, enjoyed by the children who had a couple of hours of well-supervised schooling in a sand ring, and Robert who went out for a high-octane ride in the mountains, and returned, pale but triumphant. However, La Roseraie simply

couldn't compete with the beauty and eccentricity of Les Deux Tours so - despite the expense - we took "Welcome home," said the French

plored other corners of Marrakesh, including a drink at Yacout, a beautiful fantasy of a restaurant on several levels around a candle-lit pool.

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FRANCINE STOCK booked seven

nights at Les Deux

Tours, Palmeraie de

Marrakesh, flying

But often it was enough just to relax on a terrace or balcony at the hotel and listen to the liquid song of the birds in the vines, while the girls played in the gardens, running through the low keyhole doors. watching the fish in the pool, finding their surroundings had temporarily outstripped their imagination. I shall

AN OASIS IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

IT WASN'T meant to be like this. It was meant to emerge in a blaze of hot sunshine, dusty and musky, pampering the senses with colour and perfume. Palm trees still in the dry air. The hot sensation

of something exotic. But that morning the Jardin Majorelle in Marrakesh, owned by the conturier Yves Saint Laurent, ared green, wet and ish. Rain dripped off the vast green spiky leaves and chung to the spines of the bamboo. Along the winding terracotta path that led deeper and deeper into the well-tamed jungle, the puddles shone

with the sun's reflection. Birds called strange songs through the damp air. The three primary colours of the garden were not subdued by the watery sunshine - the rich green of the palms and cacti, the warm red of the brick path and the brilliant cobalt blue of the stone arches, pergolas and the

small museum, contrasted sharply with the pink buildings of Marrakesh. A scraggy cat snoozed in the sun on one of the green wooden benches, and there was a stillness hard to imagine possible in such a bustling city. In the heart of the ville

nouveau, the only clue to the presence of this hidden urban oasis is only noticeable by the number of petits taxis and calleches (horse-drawn carriages) outside the gate. Once inside, apart from birdsong, water is the principle sound, trickling from the fountains and flowing along the waterways that thread through the garden. A long rectangular pond, edged in brillant blue, leads to a large fishpond. itself overlooked by a blue pergola trailing greenery. Turtles and goldfish swim in the green water beneath a

perfect reflection of scudding

clouds and wheeling storks.

At the back of the garden is a small museum, set up by Yves Saint Laurent, It is home to a fine collection of local carpets, bridal belts, carved wooden gates, painted woodwork, Berber pottery and Venetian glass. The last room contains the designer's own paintings of Marrakesh and the surrounding area.

Although now owned and maintained by Saint Laurent, the garden was devised over a period of 40 years by the French painter Jacques Majorelle, From 1922 to 1962, Majorelle lived in what is now the museum and built up the surrounding garden.

The place is an extraordinary reflection of his talent – notably his use of colour and texture. Although based on classic French garden design, with orderly paths and plants strictly assigned to their own beds, the garden does not scream good taste but feels like an enchanting botanical

installation. It feels more like a work of art than an act of horticulture. Many gardens might aim to achieve this effect, but few could do it

Saint Laurent must take credit for maintaining this mini-masterpiece for more than 30 years, and understanding the original owner's vision so well.

The colours, the sounds and the vistas that you find at every turn make for an extraordinarily sensuous experience, and you depart with the senses filled, an experience more akin to leaving an art exhibition than a small garden.

The Jardin Majorelle is located north of Ave Yacoub nouveau. It is open daily from 8am-noon and 2pm-6pm (3pm-7pm in summer). Entrance costs 15th (£1) and a further 15dh for





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A cabana short of a Crusoe

It's not your typical paradise island, but Anguilla is still a glamorous getaway. By Marina Salandy-Brown

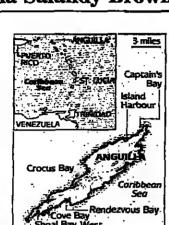
Ripptes, the bustling Sandy Beach restaur ant and bar, are English. Judy, the owner, is from London: Armel, the head waitress, came from Maidenhead to Anguilla for her grandmother's funeral and didn't go back: "It's great here." That was in 1988 and her timing was spot on. Anguilla gave up dependence on

fishing and salt exports in the Eighties, and decided to cash in on its natural advantages and our relentless quest to discover the last bits of paradise. Named after its eel-like shape, Anguilla is not everyone's idea of a Rohinson Crusoe retreat even though it is three miles wide by 16 miles long. It is a scrubby, low-lying coral island, exposed to the prevailing winds. There are few coconut palms swaying in the breeze, no cascading waterfalls, and a distinct lack of tropical trees groaning with exotic fruit.

But what it does bave is 30 exquisite beaches - one for practically every day of this month. The names are as seductive as any in the Caribbean: Captain's Bay, where turtles come to lay their eggs; Rendezvous Bay; Cove Bay; Crocus Bay. Some are just small stretches in dramatic settings; others go on for miles, gently lapped by azure waters. All the ones we managed to get to in seven days had dazzling white sand.

Sboal Bay must be one of the best beaches in the entire region, with a choice of restaurants and good local music at least twice a week, but I in the warm turquoise water at any one time. So if your idea of a good beach is one where you have to pick your way through lobster-pink bodles pressed between sea and land, you

will feel lost bere. Anguilla is strictly a place for those in the know. The people you meet bere are connoisseurs of re- tude of snaps of himself with famous moteness. No backpackers, and only but shy paradise-seekers. "The only a few day-trippers (from neighbour- people who wouldn't go unnoticed are ing French Saint Martin). The cruise the Chicago Bulls," one customer as- for haute cuisine and simple exclus- icemen to put down what the locals Epirus Rd., London SW6 7UJ (0171-ships have been all but seen off and sures me. And Smitty is the man who ivity. It's what brings top chefs such call their "revolution". British papers 937 7725 or: atbour@anguillanet. there are no cheap package holidays. must take the rap for that. It was be as Marc Alvarez from New York to parodied Wilson, and the Island's com). A good read: 'The Northeast-



get on with it. We got the message as we stepped off the 19-seater plane (no Jumbos berel. I had to round up a porter to get our luggage and, once we were outside, there was no string of soliciting taxi drivers.

In fact, nobody ever tried to sell us anything or take us anywhere. Tourism may be the biggest moneyearner bere, but most of the islanders seem to have better things to do. Only Raymond on Shoal Beach would gently and smilingly ask for a random sum to park us on comfortable deckchairs under some shady parasols on the "best" bit of the beach. And that is the reason to come

bere - for a completely hassle-free holiday. It's something well-off Americans have learnt.

And they are prepared to pay big money for it. A double sea-view room at the secluded Malliobuana Hotel costs \$650 (£420) a day at this time of never counted more than six people year, and the most modest rate at the equally elegant and beautifully designed Cap Jaluca Hotel is \$745 (£480). Suites cost in the region of \$2,000 (£1,300) a day.

Down at Island Harbour at the other end of the island, Smitty - the legendary inventor of the beach bar in Anguilla - proudly displays a multi-The tour hus hasn't yet put in an who introduced TV and American perform culinary miracles with small but excellent Heritage ern Caribbean' (Cadogan, £9.99)

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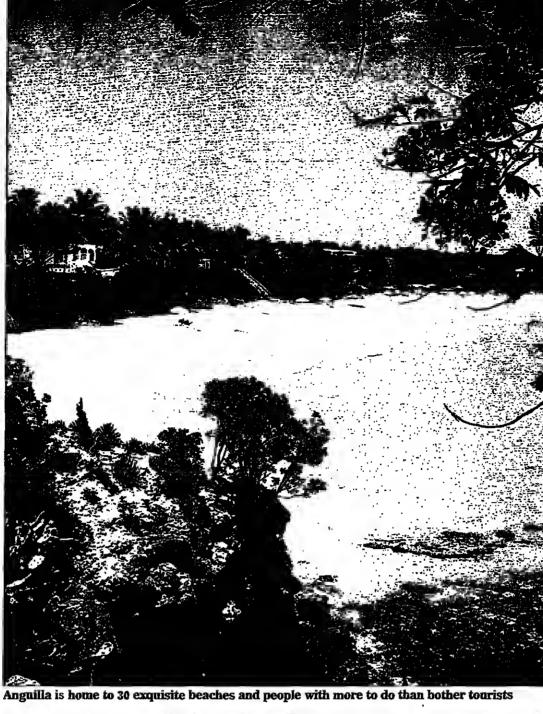
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sport to the locals, exchanging a quiet beer at the end of a day'a fishing for the cheering and booing at the greats of basketball and baseball.

Back in 1978, when he put his paradise but down on the sandy shore. there was no electricity, running water or luxury hotels. He got a generator, played loud music, introduced a barbecue for cooking the island's sweet crayfish and lobster, and just watched the customers roll in.

With few cars and even fewer paved roads it was a long trek, but they came - and still do - for his homilies ("Every day is a wonderful day when you are alive"), for the warm bospitality, and for the assurance that Anguilla is one of the very last havens you can visit.

Anguillans are happy with their extourism, with the island's reputation

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Extensive selection of quality

gets foie gras for his Straw Hat restaurant from France, lamb from Miami and filet mignon from the Mid-West. That means that the prices are high - as high as in London, And that's true wherever you go, from simple Smitty's to smart Covecastles,

where the chef is French. When I lived in the Caribbean all I knew about Anguilla was that it was the most northerly of the Leeward Islands and formed part of a threeisland entity with St Kitts and Nevis, which lie 70 miles away. But in 1969 Anguilla shot to international fame when the islanders rebelled against independence under Kittitian dominance, in favour of colonial rule.

The UK prime minister Harold Wilson sent in 315 paratroopers, helipensive brand of top-of-the-market copters, the Royal Navy, the RAF and a stand-by detachment of London pol-

freshly caught swordfish and tuna. He Collection Museum has some highly amusing pictures of the British bobby on beach patrol, making friends with the welcoming revolutionaries. Now, Anguilla is one of Britain's

five Caribbean Overseas Territories. It has 10,000 people, a governor, no army, no income tax, no crime, little unemployment and an abundance of peace, tranquillity and the good life, even if it is bottom of the Fifa league.

Marina Salandy-Brown paid £590 to fly to Anguilla via Antigua through Flight Connections (0171-344 0101 and 0161-839 5111). Easy Corner Villas (001 809 497 6433/6541) cost from \$160 (£100) per night for a one-bedroom villa and car rental costs \$40 (£25) per day or \$240 per week (£154). For more information, contact Anguilla Tourist Board at Windotel, 3

GRIDLOCK, A burst water main on London's North Circular Road caused traffic chaos in the capital on Monday this week. Any fool in the absurd position of being in White City at 9am. with a flight to catch from Heathrow at 9.45am for a meeting in Manchester at 11am, was clearly never going to make it.

Unless Adrian got involved. This ex-Military Policeman is one of a dozen riders who provide the "taxy bike" service in and around London; the correct spelling of "taxi" is not used, to avoid inflaming the cabbies who are left trailing in the wake of a 1,100cc, V4 Honda motorcycle. You also have to book in advance, by phone (to Addison Lee, 0171-387 8888), rather than hailing a bike whizzing around town.

Unlike some minicabs I have used, Adrian appeared ahead of time (having already left a message suggesting we set off a little earlier than planned). He provides a helmet, jacket. gloves - and a briefing about how to be a good passenger. A summary: sit back, stay still and enjoy the ride.

At 9.03am we joined the rush-hour traffic on Wood Lane. It wasn't rushing anywbere much, but within seconds the advantage of a bike was obvious: you can be at the front of each set of traffic lights. And on roads full of frustrated motorists all late for work, you can accelerate out of trouble rather than braking into it.

Roadworks meant we spent the first five minutes beading directly away from Heathrow. Anyone unversed in the ways of big, powerful motorbikes will get an instant lesson in their fiery characteristics when looping around the Shepherd's Bush roundabout; "sit back, stay stilly is not an easy mantra to chant when you feel that the laws of physics are being seriously challenged by the collective angular velocity of you, Adrian and threequarters of a ton of Honda,

The last time I tried this sort of thing was when no other transport was available from Phnom Penh airport. The trip into the Cambodian capital on a Honda 70, a bike both overpopulated and underpowered, was one painfully long wobble. Not this time; I was quite clearly in the safest of hands.

The nervous passenger can express any concerns easily, thanks to a two-way talk-back link built into the



SIMON CALDER

How do you 'Sit! back, stay still when the laws of physics are being challenged!

heimet. The system provides for more articulate conversation than can be achieved hy yelling through the glass separating a taxidriver from the passenger. Chiswick came and went

with a well-judged swerve or two; it was a treat to be a passenger on a machine driven by someone in the manner normally reserved for cycling, yet at many times the speed.

Conversation ceased once Adrian got into his stride on the M4, straddling both the middle of the fast lane and the speed limit.

This gives you the chan to notice two things: first, the amazing field of vision that a motorcycle trip permits you, much broader than you get from a car or a train; second, the way that car drivers seem hlind to hikers, pulling out with never a first glance nor a second thought.

We pulled up outside Terminal One at 9.25am, where I discovered that I seemed to be wearing the most terrible smirk. The taxy bike experience is similar to a first-rate themepark ride that also happens to get you to the airport

impossibly quickly.
"That's £30," said Adrian. The same price as a cab, but twice as fast: 10 times the cost of the Tube, but a million times more fun. I tipped him a fiver, and five minutes later was sitting on board a Boeing. W12 to BA 1388 at T1 in 30 minutes; on a day when the North Circular Isn't submerged, it would be even faster.

Then reality set in; the most mundane of delays (caused by a hold-up loading the meals for the inbound flight) made the plane 10 minutes late. The taxy bike service has yet to reach Manchester airport, and the most amhitious cab driver can't reach the city centre in under the quarter-hour. I was five minutes late for the meeting, but still smiling.

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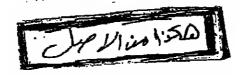
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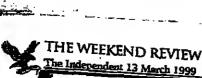
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ers seem blind to politing out with . Self glance nor a

> Labouring in the wilds of Scotland may not sound like fun but the fresh air and beautiful scenery are a real tonic. By Peter Conchie like its strung-out sister Stress, the cherished state of Relaxation has a tendency to arrive unannounced. So it he foothills of the Scottish highlands gazed at the fingers of my left hand white nail which had grown in place of the usual chewed stumps.

e said for a National Trust for Scotland Thistie Camp Holiday, Volinteers between 17 and 70 are eli- from the stereo. ible to pay good money for some d two Duke of Edinburgh's Award crankie, just south of Blair Atholl.

scheme participants, a former teacher, a prospective lecturer and a computer flooring installer.

The work which was required in the Pass of Killiecrankie was hard was that half-way and Thistle Camps are a contrahrough a week's manual labour in dictory experience. Projects take place in beautiful areas of Scotland such as Glencoe, Arran and Kintail, and was surprised to see lengths of but the labour itself is hard; physical exertion is stremmous, but the end result is an inner calm. There are Cheaper than therapy, healthier few better feelings after a hard 'han a health farm - there's a lot to day's work in the bracing outdoors than a hot shower followed by a cold beer with Miles Davis trumpeting

Work for the week was split ard labour. The age-range on our "between two historic sites owned roup spanned 40 years, and the exerience varied widely - it includes for Scotland; the Pass of Killie-

Hermitage, just outside Dunkeld. The steep gorge of Killiecrankie owes its narrowness to geology - a sparkling grey mica-schist rock stranded with bands of quartzite which defeated the ice-age glaciers - and was the scene of the battle of 1689 in which the Jacobites defeated the government forces of William III.

marching up the gorge from Perth.
In the shaded pass, afternoon strollers trooped past, hopping over the gaping hole we had dug into the footpath in an effort to install a new drain. The day-tripping tourists probably thought we were serving some sort of community service order as picks were swung and shovels pushed with weary grunts.

It's the constructive anarchy that one per cent of this remains. was so appealing. The liberating

excavating a perfectly sound looking footpath until it was instead a heap of rubble, of standing thigh deep in a pool of mud. Never before have I opened the floodgates of a dam draining a pond and, to be frank, being that dirty in public gave me a child-like thrill.

Most satisfying of all was felling trees, the ultimate in rural vandalism. Stunning auburn-leaved beech line both sides of the pass and the sight of such species being unceremoniously terminated worried passers by, many of whom stopped to ask for an explanation.

Thousands of years ago much of Perthshire, like the rest of Scotland, was covered in woodland' less than

and the landscaped environs of the feeling of throwing around gravel, of native species and both are very invasive, casting heavy shade that kills ground flora as well as native trees. The idea in woods such as Killiecrankie, designated a site of special scientific interest, is to preserve Scotland's natural woodlands.

> As another mighty beech hit the deck it was comforting to be able to quote some statistics. Oak trees can support 284 insect species, willows and birch only slighter fewer. Beech trees sustain just 64, sycamores less than half that num-

Steve, a ranger, taught us how to fell properly. The idea is to saw a large notch, known as a bird's mouth, into one side of the trunk. This dictates the direction of the fall and is critical; get it wrong and you

branches of its surviving neighwinds towards the poet's home town hours. Most satisfying of all you get of Dundee, and north in the highto put your hands on hips and cry lands across Loch Rannoch. "timber" as the tree descends with On the fast train back to London a crack and a crash. The take-as-you-I spent the journey cleaning my new find domestic arrangement is not to white fingernails before watching the

everyone's liking. Our home for the sun set with a dreamy grin, one week was in a Boys' Brigade chib which only began to fade somewhere sleeping quarters consisted where around Milton Keynes. of male and female dormitories. Meals are prepared by the volun-Thistle Camps run from late March teers The only money needed is of the beer variety.

to early November. Prices range from £35 (£20 cones) for a one-We explored the surrounding week camp, to £90 (£75 concs) for the region on a day off, a lovely area which even inspired a decent line three-week camp to Fair Isle. All food, accommodation and equipfrom the poet William McGonagall. ment is provided as well as some a man famed for the epic dreadfultransport. For a copy of the 1999 proness of his verse. From the summit gramme, send on A4 SAE to Thistle of Ben Vrackie ("speckled hill" in Camps, National Trust For Scot-Gaelic) there was a long view down land, 5 Charlotte Square, Edin-



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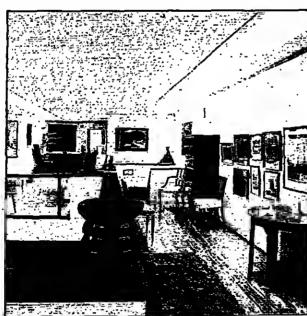
It's a museum; yet Kettle's Yard in Cambridge welcomes visitors warmly, like the home it once was. By Hugh O'Shaughnessy

i THAT flat open city, ambridge, Kettle's Yard is icked away, reclusive. Within mile te or three's walk from e splendours of Trinity Colge and the Backs, the Ede mily house overlooks a churyard, keeping itself to itself ; though it were some ancient ffolk rectory.

This, it is made clear to the sitor, is no ordinary, no vulgar useum. In fact it is not a useum at all, but a house. The ont door is kept closed as if it ere still the private dwelling the Ede family, so every sitor or group of visitors is to tug at the bell-pull to un admittance.

The guardians stand behind e door ready to welcome you. dies of the utmost reectability they invite you to ite your name and, they add, rifle fruitily, "your full postal dress, please" in the book on entrance ball table. If they a not too busy they will, in a anner that would certainly we fascinated that talented it-spotter Bill Bryson, find niable small talk about how e nights are drawing in, or it's t as cold as it might be. You al that if Her Majesty's Govament were ever to issue entity cards to recognised d paid-up members of the iglish middle class, these lies would - ever so sweetly isk to see yours.

But, flummery aside, this use contains a fine hoard of th-century pictures and objets rought together by those id collectors Jim Ede and his te Helen. As assistant at the te Gallery in London in the rly Twenties, Ede met and beme friends with the painters n and Winifred Nicholson.



They, he recounts "opened a door to contemporary art and I rushed headlong into the arms of Picasso, Brancusi and Braque". Meanwhile Winifred Nicholson taught him the importance of fusing art with everyday living, a lesson that continues to be taught, mutely,

Fortunately for us, too, Ede, as one of Ben Nicholson's rare admirers at the time, was offered works that no one else fancied, and was asked for no more than the cost of the canvas and frames. There are now similar happened with the painter Alfred Wallace; the. house now has 100 of his pictures. In 1926, a decade after the

strongest raison d'être.

Soft tones in the Kettle's Yard collection Paul Allitt artist's death, Ede also had the opportunity of buying a large lot of Gaudier-Brzeskas

that no one else could be

bothered with.

But then came pictures by Miró, David Jones, Lowry and Gabo; pots from Lucie Rie and Bernard Leach, and sculptures to every visitor to Kettle's Yard from Barbara Hepworth, Henri and which in my opinion is its . Gaudier-Brzeska and many others. Ede wanted to make his collection more widely available and from 1957 he developed a group of four small condemned cottages. There he housed the pictures and objects, keeping the collection open every afternoon in university term-time. It 44 at Kettle's Yard. Something continued after his death and does so still, the main difference today being the large extension designed by Sir Leslie Martin, which was opened in 1970.

The collection is a tremendous artistic resource and, as a graduate of England's older university, this correspondent is naturally keen on anything that raises the standard of culture in Cambridge, Having enjoyed a visit, you can still have reservations about the collection and the way it is displayed. There is a certain lack of bold colour, greys and other soft tones predominate. On my visit I was reminded constantly of that other house now open to the public, Pablo Neruda's house at Isla Negra on the Pacific in Chile, and I wished for some of the strong colnurs and adventurous objects, from flags to anchors, which litter it.

And surely there is room to doubt the wisdom of an enterprise that seeks to preserve such a living thing as a house unchanged for posterity. It is true that you can sit in the chairs, read the books and admire the flowers that are kept fresh in the vases. Yet despite all the semantics, and the effort to preserve a domestic feel, Kettle's Yard is a museum. An unusual museum, an enjoyable museum, a unique museum, run with competence today by the University of Cambridge, yet still a museum. While recognising the imperfections of the place, you cannot but agree with Ede that "There should be a Kettle's

The full postal address of Kettle's Yord is Costle Street, Combridge CB3 0AQ (01223 352124). It opens daily except Monday, 2pm-4pm for the house, and 12.30pm-5.30pm (2pm-5.30pm on Sundays) for the exhibition gallery. Admission is free

Yard in every university".

TRAILS OF THE UNEXPECTED NO 4: SHAKESPEARE IN LONDON

HE'S MR Millennium, say radio listeners, and his love life is packing them in at 200 cinemas nationwide. But if you're in London, don't join the queues to catch a glimpse of him - he's on show for you free. The capital is stuffed with Shakespeares, in ink and paint and stone.

If you want the Bard hard at work, make for the lobby of the British Library and the 1757 sculpture by Louis-François Roubiliac. This Shakespeare holds a quill in his hand and leans on a manuscript looking out into space for his Muse. It was commissioned by David Garrick, owner of the Drury Lana Theatre and selfstyled protector of

Shakespeare's legacy. In the 383 years since Shakespeare's death people have been out to enjoy honour-by-association with his image. The Chandos Portrait hanging in the National Portrait Gallery is supposed to have passed like a kind of theatrical talisman between Sir



William Davenant, Thomas Betterton and Mrs Barry the leading lights of 17thcentury theatre. The Southwark

Cathedral monument (above) gives us London's most uncomfortable Shakespeare. He is lying on the ground, his face a study in melancholy. It may be the philosophic look of a poet genius, or is it his response to the dampness of the ground? Southwark was famous for its marshes and Henry McCarthy's 1912 sculpture brilliantly evokes

the fixed stare of one wbose hase is suffering seepage. For the most inquisitive portrayal of the Bard glance up at the exterior wall of The Shakespeare's Head pub on the corner of Soho's Foubert's Place and Carnaby Street

This 18th-century representation peers down at London's teeming multitude - the many headed monster. His missing hand is not a sign of neglect but the result of a bomb dropped during the Blitz. In St Andrew-By-The-

Wardrobe in the City (a restored Wren church) you can find him on his knees at a "faldstool" - a kind of freestanding pew, his reading matter the Bible, his gaze heavenward. The solemnity is relieved somewhat by twn hovering, fleshy putti that part rich curtains to reveal the

playwright at his devotions. Giovanni Fontana's 1874 Shakespeare in Leicester Square stares icily in the direction of the north side

Empire "disco inferno". Contempt for such frivolities is revealed in his pointed gesture to the words from Twelfth Night: "There is no Darkness But Ignorance."

Inscriptions on these

sculptures are like dosage instructions on pill bottles they tell us how to take our Shakespeares. Particularly popular are lines from Prospero's speech in The Tempest. They pop up on the plinth Shakespeare leans m in Westminster Abbey's Poets' Corner and above Southwark's monument. In such places the words admonish the vain spectator, reminding us that we are "such stuff as dreams are made on".

Of course all these images may be part of the Shakespeare conspiracy, distracting us from the real author of the plays. If this is your view, head for Room 2 in the National Portrait Gallery where Sir Francis Bacon hangs dressed in

splendid robes. **JEROME MONAHAN**

Summertime Cruise of Venice

Tenice is on everyone's list to visit at least once during a lifetime which probably explains the high prices of accommodation, not to mention the price of a cup of coffee or a meal. Then, having got there, there is the expense of getting around which normally results in the visitor seeing just a fraction of what there is to see in the

During the late spring and summer we shall be operating a series of short cruises on the Swiss-managed vessel. MS Viking Bordeaux, which will be our base for Venice itself and for visiting the ancient port town of Chioggia across the lagoon. The excursions to Burano and Torcello will be made by special launch. The tariff includes return flights from London, transfers and cruise, full board. accommodation in an outside facing cabin with en suite facilities. UK departure tax and services of a knowledgeable local guide.

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War and piste, the Sarajevo story

The slopes are de-mined, the ice-rink is no longer a morgue. But will Torvill and Dean be making a comeback? By Stephen Wood

contact in Sarajevo, is the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina famous? He answered his own question: "War, the Winter

Olympics, and more war." Television came too late to record Saraievo's arrival on the world stage, with the assassination there in 1914 of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne; but it relayed images, unforgettable in different ways, of the city's other two international events. First there was the 1984 Olympics, made memorable for British viewers hy Torvill and Dean's Bolero routine, with which they won a gold medal at the Zetra ice rink. Less than a decade later, during the war in the former Yugoslavia, came the city's siege, with nightly oews reports of Sarajevo under attack from Bosnian Serb artillery on the surrounding hills, and soldiers firing from the suburbs into the infamous "Snipers' Alley".

If history tends to repeat itself. however, Sarajevo's limited international repertoire gives grounds for optimism to a group of people who are involved in winter sports in the area - my contact, Piers Thompson, among them. Next year they plan to make a formal bid to hold the 2010 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo.

More Winter Olympics? Why not, when much of the infrastructure of the 1984 games has survived the war?

Jahorina, the resort to the east of the city where the women's downhill race was beld, is in need of refurbishment; yet Piers Thompson's company, Harlequin Leisure, takes more than 500 skiers a week there, predominantly soldiers from the UN's stabilisation force, SFOR, based in Sarajevo. To the south, the skijumps at Igman are back in use a cemetery - makes the rink and the Bjelasnica resort, where the 1984 men's downhill took place, reopened this season (after de-mining) with a new chair-lift, a café and other facilities for sklers.

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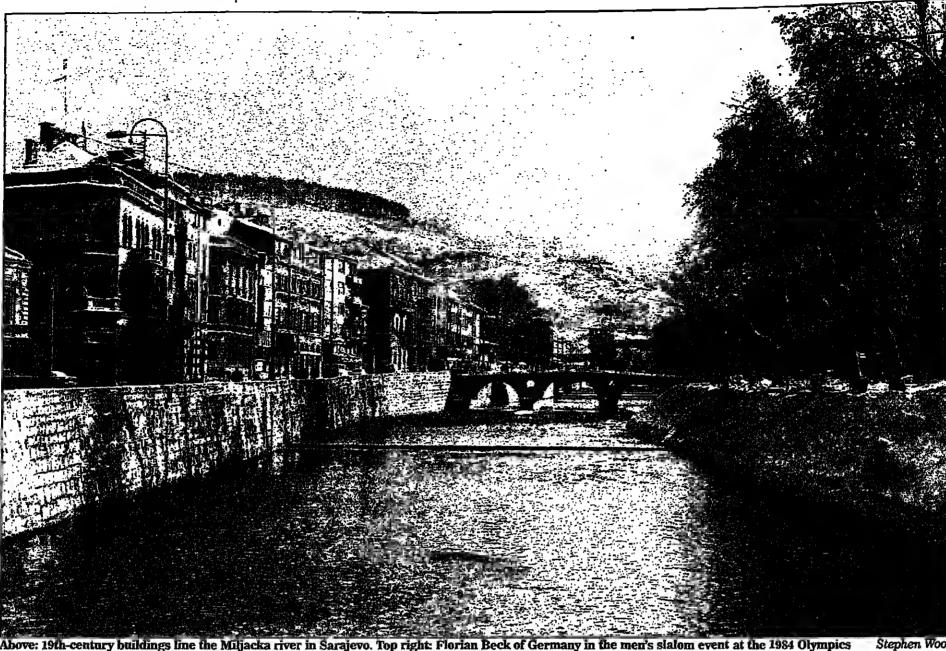
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Later this month, the reaugurated, an event which the two areas into which Bosnia-



Sarajevo authorities hope Herzegovina is now divided. it's outdated) from Sarajevo, in

Torvill and Dean will attend. Its use as a morgue during the war Bosnian Serbs' Republika Srp- what was the car park is now ska and the Bosnian/Croat "Federation" area, effectively something of a memorial to the isolates Jahorina, as the only war's victims; the 1984 one of the 1984 Winter Olympics bobsleigh run in the hills is facilities in Serb territory, it renmore obviously marked by ders the bobsleigh run a no-go the conflict, being set on a area and, thanks to a spur of the heavily mined area within the IEBL, makes Igmen and Bje-International Entity Border lasnica relatively inaccessible Line (IEBL) that separates the for Bosniaks (forget the nomenciature "Bosnian Muslims" -

This division, between the the Federation area.

These political factors make Sarajevo, for the present, impractical as an Olympic city; but as a winter sports area it is al-

The ride from Sarajevo airport, which was itself on the front line during the siege, brings back memories of the distressing wartime television images. True, I had forgotten that Snipers' Alley is about a

wide as the M25 (not surprising, since a real alley would give distant snipers little at which to aim); but the heavily shelled Sixties concrete towers on either side are instantly recognisable. They are either bitten away and partly destroyed, like the huilding in which the Standard newspaper was produced on every day bar one during the war, or burned out, like the huge Unis block that was memorably turned into a flaming torch by Bosnian Serb artillery attack. Now, however, the city trams

that once provided targets for Bosnian Serbs and snipercover for the Sarajevans merely go about their business, rumbof the old town. Its 19th-century buildings on the southern perimeter, facing the Miljacka river. took a lot of punishment - particularly the beautiful, pseudo-Moorish National Library, which is oow being restored. Elsewhere relatively little structural damage seems to have been done, although shellholes filled with red-tinted concrete bear permanent witness to attacks that caused fatalities. The mosques, some of which date from the 16th century, still stand; and the old Bascarsija market area - all cobbled streets and single-storey wooden buildings - looked so untouched that it could almost

The still elegant, busy city feels safer than Londoo's West End on a Saturday night, which is hardly surprising with so many peace-keepers present oot just the SFOR troops but also the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe), OHR (Office of High Representative) and IPTF (International Police Task Force), among others. But as you head towards Jahorina across the IEBL into the RS - that's Republika Srpska, if you're oot getting the hang of these military abbreviations – the tensions of being in a former war zone become rather more apparent, if only because the ski resort is right next to Pale, the former stronghold of the hard-line Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karad-

zic and Ratko Mladic. Bosniaks do not ski at Jahorina. Luckily, a lot of helpful, English-speaking Serbs from Belgrade do, for which I was grateful. Few people in Jahorina speak English (they do not have the Sarajevans' daily exposure to the largely Anglophooe international organisations), and they still use the old Yugoslav dinar, I speak no Serbo-Croat, and I bad Deutschmarks - which, along with locally issued "equivalent marks", are the currency of the Federation.

The skiing at the resort is limited: three chair-lifts and two drag-lifts were running. giving access to about a dozen ungroomed pistes, mainly reds, and to large off-piste areas in

between - but not to the 1984 Leisure. The company prowomen's downhill run, whose chair-lift has clearly not worked services in Jahorina (and, next for a long time. The top of the resort is at 1,889m, offering vertical drops of some 300m; but the lumpy surfaces made the descents quite fun, especially for the largely unskilled Serbian skiers. (The SFOR troops did rather better, although some had the handicap of a pistol strapped to their thighs.) Jaborina obviously needs investmeet, and oot only on the pistes. It is short of accommodation, since two of the hotels and many chalets are perman-

Sarajevo in the wake of the Dayton agreement. Sarajevo's other ski area, to the south of the city, at Bjelasnica in Federation territory, has seen investment this season. And it does offer the thrill of going down an Olympic run, the 1984 men's downhill course. Long, fast and ungroomed, this made me look more like an average Serbian skiler than an Olympic contender. But Bjelasnica is currently even more limited than Jahorina, with just the ooe piste and one off-piste descent open. And it has no accommodation at all; while retreating from the area during the war, the Bosnian Serb army destroyed all of its nine hotels.

ently occupied by Bosnian

Serbs who were displaced from

Evidently, Sarajevo cannot compete with Val d'Isère as a skiing destination. But for its interest as a political arena, it has no rival in Europe.

After skiing at Jahorina I met up again with Piers Thompson, a 30-year-old from Cheshire who is now in his second year running Harlequin

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after the committee's second meeting, Mr Thompson invited me to join the members for a If the atmosphere seemed tense, that was hardly surpris-

ing for the two Bosniak ski-area managers, this was the first time they had been in Bossesserb territory since the started, and the committee's: members - former colleagues - had been reunited, after seven years, only in the previous week. But the meeting had gone incredibly well", according to Mr Forde (thanks largely, he said, to "the unique relation ship Piers has with the people

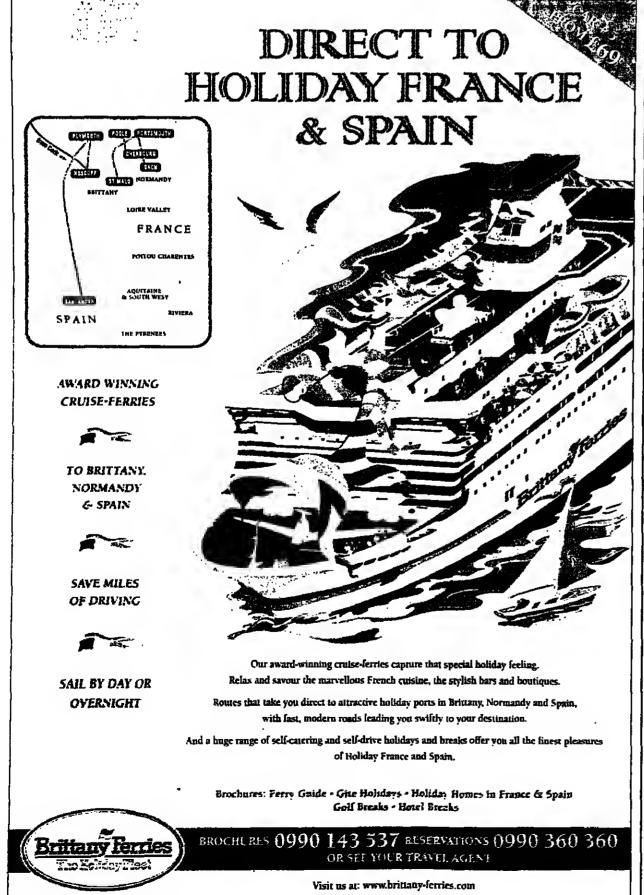
here") and, after a few drinks, the mood relaxed; the senior Bosniak representative even allowed himself a political joke. To someone like me, who had dropped into Sarajevo only for a couple of days' skiing to sit in with those attempting to repair the damage of almost a

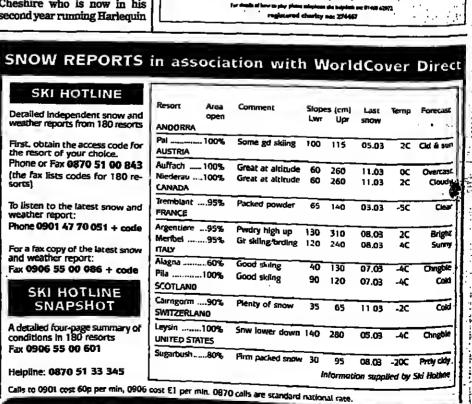
decade of armed conflict seemed absurd - but extremely affecting, too. More Wire's Olympics? Obviously, If I were on the International Olympic-Committee, I know which city would get my vote for 2010.

Stephen Wood paid £341 return on Austrian Airlines (0171-434 7300) to Sarajevo, via Vienna. He stayed at the Sarai hotel in Sarajevo (00 387 71 472 691), for DM157 (£55) n night, Harleoum Leisure (00 387 71 445 076) can organise ski packages in Jahorina from DM520 (£184) per person, based on two sharing, including half-board chalet accommodation and transfers



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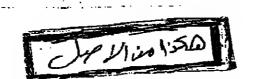
vides accommodation, equipment rentals and other local ski

season, in Bjelasnica) to the in-

ternational organisations. Bnt

Mr Thompson is looking for-

ward to more normal times, so



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Flight 2000: ready for take-off?

Most airlines seem confident they can deal with Y2K, but some are taking no chances. By Hugh Riddell

f you find yourself in Warsaw on 31 December this year, don't count on getting a flight home on the Polish national airline. Until 2 January 2000 LOT will ground its fleet to avoid falling prey to the Millennium Bug. But the Polish airline is in the minority. It was the only airline out of 30 I questioned to admit. to alterations to its schedule because of potential problems caused by the failure of computer systems to recognise the year 2000.

The midnight hour is being avoided by five others among those I talked to. Britannia, Airtours and Jersey European Airways say there is "no demand". Caledonian wants to offer staff the "once-in-a-lifetime chance to celebrate a millennium".

El Al would not be flying anyway. since the Israeli national airline does not fly on the Sabbath (between sunset on Friday and sunset on Saturday, which effectively rules out flights up to about midnight on Satunities). A spokesman for the airline, Daniel Saadon, says candidly: We're very locky that I January 2000 is a Saturday, so we don't have to make a decision."

Fourteen carriers are going ahead with all flights (among them Lufthansa, Air France, Canadian Airlines, Qantas and Aer Lingus) while the other nine are waiting for the green light from information technology departments and head offices. British Airways is not concerned about its readiness (its millennium compliance programme started in 1995 and has had £100m lavished on it) but BA says that a full service over the millennium period cannot be guaranteed.

Young airlines such as Go (aged one year) and easyJet (four years) have systems that were compliant "frain birth"; major airlines such as Air France and Canadian Airlines claim to have passed initial tests.

Yet just because an airline's own systems are "clean", it does not mean there are no other digital pit-HE INTERESTED AND falls. There are worries that some minor airlines have started their programme "pretty late in the day".

"It's a humungous project," says Updesh Kapur of Virgin Atlantic. "One flight relies on 3,000 computerrelated parts."

The web of software support means suppliers need to work closely with their clients, especially on ground-support services. A Britannia spokesman cited baggage loss and gridlocked traffic as potential scenarios, preventing staff and passengers getting to the airport. Then there is air traffic control.

"It is out of our control specieswoman for BA. Many airlines have questioned the reliability of systems in the Middle East. Central Africa, South America and

Journey to the Source:

No 6: Irish Linen



On 31 December, you'll need to reach Jerusalem before sunset. Picture by Piers Newbery, a finalist in the Wanderlust/Independent travel photography competition

Eastern Europe. These are zones that, even without a potential software crash, have proved to be "difflies himself, thinks that pilots

of air traffic control systems around the globe. At least then airlines will carriers are capitalising on demand know where their pilots are likely to for exotic locations: BA and Virgin

Although some airlines cite low tas flights to Sydney are being quotemand as their motive for failing to ed at £1,431- a £329 rise. deal with the situation, should the schedule flights over Y2K, travel Transport Association will publish a is book now," says Beverly Sams, of ly do, between Christmas and the report in the summer on the state Thomas Cook Flights Direct. "The new year

cheaper fares have gone." Long-haul

Also, high-season prices will stay systems fail. The International Air agents are selling fast. "Our advice high and will not dip, as they usual-

AIRLINE CHECKLIST: Airlines which will not be operating between 31/12/99 and

Al, Jersey European Airways, LOT

Airlines which say they will be sticking to their schedules: Aer Lingus, Air Algerie, Air France, Pakistan International Airways, All Nippon Airways, American Air- Royal Air Maroc and Virgin Atlantic.

A HOLIDAY over the millennium may cost you

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anything up to double what you would have paid last year for the same destination and duration. "People are opting for the old favourites," says a Thomson spokesperson. Perennial hol-spots in southern Spain, the Caribbean, the Canary Islands, Australia and the United States are likely losee the highest demand

Spanish millennium weeks with Thomas Cook are twice as expensive as last year, while Autours' week in Costa Blanca has risen 75 per cent to £529 The Cox and Kings tour in Rajusthan's forts and palaces has risen 50 per cent from \$2,000 to \$3,000 Some operators, like Club Mark Warner, have capped increases at 20 per cent

The rush to leave the country for the New Year is unprecedented. According to Airtours research, '81 per cent of people who would not normally travel at this time are considering foreign travel".

In other words, see times as many people as usual are scrambling for a place in the sunrise. Thomson took 15,000 bookings in the month following the tirst edition of its millennium brochure.

Possibly best value is being offered by overland tour operators who do not depend on hotels. For example, Encounter, whose trips range from the Himalayas Io the Amazou, is not increasing prices.

Few operators are issuing more than a legal disclaimer obout the Millennium Bug. Most express confidence that airlines will be compliant. At least one views the YTK scares as "media paranoia".

Tailored trips abound. Cox and Kings recommends a trip to the Inca fortress of Machu Picchu in Peru or a flight over Everest as the millennium dawns, Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee is the centrepiece of the tour of Israel organised by Jasmin (whose prices will rise no more than 10 per cent). Alastair McCabe of Jasmin also vouches for Jordanian hospitality, making it "ideal for a party", even though Ramadan falls at New Year. HUGH RIDDELL



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There's something deeply satisfying about eating at a bleached and then table laid with crisp, white linen. To recreate that feeling of pristine, heavy material curling onto your lap, head for Ireland (as if the luxury market. the forthcoming national festivities aren't enough of an excuse).

Linen originated in Egypt and was brought to Britain by the Romans. In the 17th century, loomproficient Huguenots arrived in Ireland, Highquality damask soon became hig business in Ulster. After the flax harvest, fibres were spun and finely woven into lengths of cloth. These would then be sold as

unbleached "brown" linen, or laid out along riverbanks to be sunhammered smooth into white" linen. These days, fields of blue flax are still grown in Ireland to provide small quantities of linen for

To pick up the linen trail. go beyond the abandoned mills of the former "linen triangle" between Belfast. Armagh and Dungannon and visit the Beetling Mill at Wellbrook in County Tyrone (016487 51735 for details). where six deafening

once hammered out linen by water power. Next stop, the Irish Linen Centre and Museum at Lisburn (01846 663377). Inside the 17th-century Market House, where details the industry's history and includes spinning and weaving

weavers once traded cloth, an interactive exhibition demonstrations. Open 9.30am to 50m from Monday-Saturday entrance is free and the centre also houses a

speciality linen shop. A SIXseater tablecloth or you

The Irish Linen Company in London (0171-493 8949), where a similar quality tablecloth costs from £140. The £53 you'd save by buying in Ireland would pay for a £48 return

ticket from Luton to Belfast on easyJet (0870 6000 000), the £3 unlimited rail deal (see Bargain of the Week 1, right) and a celebratory St Patrick's Day Guinness.

Gadget of the Week The Nikon Nuvis S compact APS camera (pictured) has just been launched. It is pretty to look at, simple to use (including the zoom lens) and takes reliable, if not amazingly sharp,

pictures. However, its small size (slightly larger, but not much heavier, than a pack of cards) disguises the camera's clumsiness although there is no outer casing, the stainless steel

shell has to be tugged open. The gimmick factor of the APS format makes it a pricey £230 but, nonetheless, this would be a useful addition to any lightweight traveller's suitcase. Call 0800 230 220 for stockists.

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tarytale scenario of domes and spires. No less a city of spires is Budapest, one of the gracious cities through which the Danube meanders on its way to the Black Sea. From austere Gothic, stately Renaissance and hardly-restrained Oriental decoration to the exuberance of the Baroque, the ancient towns of Buda and Pest recall

Both cities endured nearly 40 years of life behind the former Iron Curtain but have emerged relatively unscathed by the dead hand of dictatorial administration to a new flowering. ITENERARY Days 1, 2, 3 & 4 Depart London Heathrow for



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True or false? A ship from Troon to Delfast? Currently false, but about to become true - as is a boat from twice-daily ferry between the Ayrshire port and Belfast on 29 April. A car plus five passengers costs £125 for a three-day return. From the end of this month, there will be a service from Heysham to Belfast at the same fares as for Troon.

Bargain of the week 1 The freedom of Northern Ireland for £3. Northern Ireland Railways can-

lines, Austrian Airways, Canadian

Airlines, Czech Airlines, Iberia,

Lufthansa, Meridiana, Qantas, SAS,

Airlines whose precise schedules

over the millennium are still to

British Airways, British Midland,

Delta, easyJet, Go, Malaysia Airlines,

Turkish Airlines.

Heysham to Northern Ireland's not boast an extensive netbiggest city. Sea Containers work-Londonderry, Portrush, (08705 523 523) is launching a Larne and Newry are as far as you can get from Belfast - but it certainly offers the best deal of any British train company. On Sundays, you can travel anywhere on the 200-mile network for £3. The only condition is that you start your journey before 3pm. Call 01232 899411.

Bargain of the week 2 England to I cland for £22.50. This return fare to the centre of Dublin is readily available up to 2pm the day before departure. Three catches: you don't fly, you go by rail and sea, using the Holyhead-Dun Looghaire fast ferry; two people have to travel together; and, for this fare, you have to start in Chester, Other fares are from Manchester (£25.50), Birming ham (£28). Newcastle (£38) and London (£33), Call 0990 453 455.

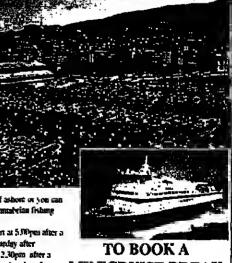
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ing morning. You will have the opportunity of amusing yourself ashore or you can som one of the octional excursions along the coast to a small Cantabrian fishing village or into the centre of Billion irself.

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A home-from-home in New York

Spring is an ideal time to visit Manhattan. So why not live like the locals do? By **Jon Winter**

t felt hoth awkward and strangely comforting when we turned up at Winston's Manhattan apartment, dumped our bags and set about making ourselves at home in his home. Awkward, as our reason for visiting was not to see Winston. And comforting because we were about to relieve him of his house keys, see him politely to the door and live it up in his plush apartment for a week

Any feelings of guilt for throwing a man out of his own home soon disappeared when we settled up the week's rent: \$2,363 (around £1,500). That might sound expensive, hut split between six friends, it worked out at a thrifty 57 hucks a night (around £35) for a spacious 10th-floor apartment located right on Central Park South.

When you consider that the 1999 hotel occupancy forecast for Manhattan is 81.3 per cent in 1998 - and with average room rates topping \$200 a night - renting an apartment makes a comfortable and surprisingly cost-effective alternative.

Yet most of the guide books seem to skim over this option. We found our apartment on the Internet through New York Habitat, All the formalines were completed by fax from the UK, which meant that all we had to do was pick up the keys from the owner on arrival.

This is perhaps the one area of uncertainty. What if the accommodation is an absolute dump when you arrive? It's a possible worst-case scenario if booking privately with some of the unregulated sub-letting that is available on the Internet and in the New York listing magazines, hut all the agencies that are listed on the right claimed to regularly inspect the properties on their books and you are usually able to view the accom-

modation online. In fact, although looking pretty smart in the pictures, Winston's our own mini bar, but these are sacplace was much bigger and far rifices worth making to be able to more appealing when we arrived. The interior featured an intriguing collection of original artwork and cluttered book shelves, and was crammed with musical curiosities reflecting his profession as an opera shopping and touring the sights, it's director, including an ageing grand all too easy to stop off at a deli, pick piano in the corner. Home comforts up a six-pack and a Caesar salad and included a television and video waste an evening in one of the recorder, stereo, e-mail facilities, free world's most exciting cities engaged local calls and a monstrous fridge to in the most mind-numbing of statefill with beers, olives, homestead side activities: watching TV.



You get more than a good view if you rent one of Manhattan's apartments - if you're lucky, fully furnished can even mean a grand piano

212 594 5650. Fax or:

Accommodations

Alternative Business

orange juice and the leftovers from last night's pizza.

All in all, renting Winston's home worked out well for us. OK, so we had to service our own rooms and stock enjoy the company of your friends in a communal space rather than the

often sterile environment of a hotel. There is one downside. When the lethargy sets in after a day's

New York Habitat (www.nyhabitat.com) 550 short-term vacation rentals in Manhattan, Brooklyn and

307 7th Avenue, Suite 306, New York City, NY 10001 (00 1 212 627 1416 or: rent@ nyhabitat.com) **Big Apple Lodgings**

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in properties ranging from studios to five-bedroom apartments. Charles on 00 1 718 953 4590 or: info@b-apple.com)

Ingrite's Short-Term Apartments (www.ingrite.com) Offers completely furnished townhouse apartments in midtown Manhattan. Properties are \$120 to \$300 per night. Ingrite Rieck (00 1 212 980 3082

Oxbridge Property Services One-bedroom accommodation from \$135 per night, twobedroom from \$225. 1623 Third Avenue, Suite 104, New York, NY 10128 (00 1 212 348 8100 or: oxbridge@

FURTHER INFORMATION

aol.com) Assured Accommodation Inc (www.assurednyc.com) Studios and one-bedroom apartments from \$150 per night, two- and three-bedroom apartments ranging between

\$250-\$500, minimum stay three nights. 00 1 212 431 0569 or:

mail@assurednyc.com) Urban Ventures (www.nynrbanventures.com) New York's best-known agency, representing more than 500 properties from studios at \$105 per night to a Central Park West penthouse offering "views of the world (call for details)". 38 West 32nd Street, Suite 1412,

New York City, NY 10001 (00 1

month with porter, maid service and a range of extras from \$2,850 per month, one-bedroom apartments from \$3,600 per

anne@nyurbanventures.com)

(www.rent.net/ads/aba)

Studios for a minimum of one

PO Box 7147 FDR Station, New York City. NY 10150 (00 1 212 4450494 or: althusac@erols.com)

The Renaissance rides into rodeo town

Rough and rugged Fort Worth lies at the heart of Texan cowboy country. Now it's trying to shed its Wild West image and become a little more cultural. By Jennifer Chevalier

IN THE vast parking lot outside Billy Bob's Texas, a young woman crouches between cars to have a pee. Her friend shrieks and giggles when they find they have been discovered, and both tear off towards the queue outside the bar. It's a steamy Friday night, the temperature has barely dipped below 100 degrees, and Fort Worth's most famous watering hole is packing them in with a mix of drinking, gambling, country music, and bull riding.

"Leyt's git Wesss-turn!" beliows the rodeo compere. just as a young man in a Stetson and leather chaps falls from the back of a bull called Freddy Kruger. Dusting himself off with hitter resignanon, the cowboy's expression belies the reality of weekends at Billy Bob's: he's like a seasoned porn star, tired of the crowd's astonishment at his prowess. hut not ready to give up his exolic and quite particular talent.

This is the Wild West as tourists would always have it: rough, adventurous and slightly vulgar. But the locals - while they come to Billy Bob's for the country music - are tired of the cliches that have taunted them since Fort Worth was founded nearly 150 years ago. The population of Texas has been growing steadily since America's hi-tech industry started relocating here, and with laptop cowboys from the north joining the already oil-rich Texan elite, the combined affluence has meant hunger for something more than simple Tex-Mex culture. So one family has struck back by building a monument to culture and sophistication in the heart of Cowtown.

Recognised as the Medicis of Fort Worth, the Bass family of millionaires has created a proud little city-state amidst the untamed American landscape of skyscrapers and freeways, almost single-handedly revitalising Fort Worth's downtown core. It started almost two decades ago, when the Bass brothers rebuilt a hotel. Then they put up a few skyscrapers - of the tasteful



emerald-green variety. A theatre was added. Bit by hit, they restored the existing low-rise, 19th-century buildings, and added a few art-deco structures for good measure. This year they crowned Bassville" by huilding the Europeaninspired Nancy Lee and Perry R Bass Performance Hall (a tribute to their parents), which now houses a local opera, symphony and ballet. They ensure the protection of the good citizenry with their own private security firm - aka the Basstapo; the hurghers, for their part, delight in the munificence of their Renaissance princes, and the fact that the cowboy thuggery of the past has all but been relegated to the old Stockyards district, where Billy Bob does business.

So now the Bass family is in control of about 40 downtown blocks in an area that was once known as Hell's Half Acre. Thoughtfully, it's been renamed Sundance Square

"It's just a big car park, really," explains a friend from Manchester, who moved to Fort Worth three years ago. And in the centre of the downtown core, where European visitors might expect to see a piazza or a fountain, Fort Worth does indeed have a parking lot, backed by a wall mural of the cattle drives of the last century. But hey, this is America, and it's actually damn convenient to be able to get a parking spot. ing architecture of the Square is enough to distract from the assortment of allterrain vehicles in its centre.

Gentle pink granite glows next to sturdy redbrick reliability. Turrets are decorated with mosaic inlay, and lacy marble frills neatly trim the tops of several huildings. The high-rises that exist stand sentinel to the modesty of the immediate downtown vicinity, neither overshadowing nor distracting from the redbrick-paved Square. The new performance hall is a flash of white limestone; two Goliath-sized angels trumpet the arrival of culture to the Wild West.

To be fair, other Ewing-style characters had already set a trend for the Bass family to follow. To the west of the city - to the east is Dallas and the dreary array of strip malls that precede it - is the cultural district. There, the names of the museums are a testament to pre- at the disreputable Hooters bar, the sign Bass millionaires. The Kimbell Art practically grins when it announces "live Museum (Kimbell was a grains and gro-midget tossin' and cockfights all week". ceries man before he struck oil) is like a Beginner's Guide to Modern Art. A Gauguin next to a Cezanne, close to a Van Gogh, and then a Munch. It is a refreshingly manageable size to explore, and special exhibits are put together in conjunction with galleries around the world to ensure a greater influx of European masters.

The Sid Richardson (cattle and oil) Collection of Western Art houses the Amon Carter (newspaperman) Museum, which has also preserved Remington's feral cowboy sculptures, in all their sweat and savagery. The Fort Worth Botanic Garden has studiously recreated a Japanese garden, where fail koi float in calm pools next to the Meditation Garden, confirming the city's nascent nobility.

There are still hints of Fort Worth's Texans are proud of their home-grown chester on American

And once out of the car, the surround- culture, if a little desperate for it to diversify. In the historic Stockyards, the Wild West is neatly corralled and tamed for easy consumption. Next to Billy Bob's, a genuine rodeo is held every weekend at the Cowtown Coliseum, and real cowboys and cowgirls shop at Leddy's Boots and Saddles on the main drag. "Got any in red? It's my lucky colour!" croaks an old-timer who was set to compete in the ring but had left her boots back home. Nearby, the spectators fill up at steak houses on two-inch thick slabs of beef that are served on hot tin plates, a force of habit after so many

nights out on the open range. Away from the Stockyards, along the drive to Dallas, the more ribald elements of Texas add a frisson to the polite rebranding of Fort Worth. Dusty shacks advertise Mild to Wild Tattoos. all your "law enforcement" needs, and

There is no private gendarmerie to protect these outskirts of the city-state. Fort Worth has shuddered and turned its back on the unsavoury elements of its lawless past. And so the whole town is reminiscent of Frederic Remington's most unusual cowboy painting, on display in the Amon Carter Museum. Grey and static, in the winter scene two men guide their horses up to a wooden fence. They seem tired of the rough best of American artists Frederic Rem- and tumble lives they have led. One ington and Charles Russell. Ditto the man, with his hand on the gate, is ready to open the way to a more genteel way of life. Like the Full of the Cowboy, Fort Worth has been through some changes, and now looks forward to a more refined future.

Getting there: the best airport is Dallas-Fort Worth, with non-stop flights from Gatwick on British Airways (0345 222111) and American Airlines (0345 cowboy heritage everywhere - after all, 789789), and in summer from Man-



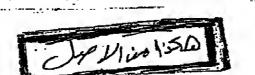
These days, culture and cowboys alike inhabit Forth Worth

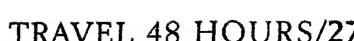
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48 hours ... in Miami

Beat the blues of a British winter with a weekend in the luxurious heart of South Beach. By Jon Winter

Cultural afternoon

Bring yourself back into the wider world

with a visit to the Holocaust Memorial. (3)



Beam Down

Even though Laker Airways has tried

route, there is still plenty of

and failed twice on the Gatwick-Miami

mpetition. From Gazwick, non-stop

on American Airlines (0345 789789)

and British Airways (0345 222111);

from Heathrow, non-stop on British

747747). Fares are as low as £220

return before Easter, but will rise

ubstantially after that.

ways and Virgin Atlantic (01293

Bracing Brunch

Take a hike

Join the body-conscious beach crowd for a post-

workout power drink to set yourself up for the day. Try

the 53.50 Raspberry Rhapsody at South Beach Smoothle, ② (1229 Washington Ave 001 305 531

5633), an energising blend of Bananas, Raspberries.

skinny milk, protein, amino activators, purbinado and

mega powder. Or there's Smoothle Klag @ at 1525

Alton Road (001 305 672 6595) and the Hollywood Juice Bar (2) at 704 Lincoln Rd (001 305 538 8988).

Check for Gallery Walks listed in the arts

section of Miami's excellent free paper.

perambulations focus around the galleries and studios along Lincoln Road. There is plenty to occupy an unaccompanied afternoon wandering through this

New Times, Organised every second

Saturday of the month, these social

pedestrianised mall though, nosing

around the galleries and in open studios

where you can watch some of the artists

at work. Visitors are encouraged to take

\$1000. One of the more unusual buys are

Henderson, Her pastel-on-paper portralts on display include: "US v Paul Martinez -

permitted north of Miami Beach, on

Haulover Beach.

something home under the Art To Go

the works of courtroom artist. Shirley

opening argument", "Manuel Antonio

scheme which keeps prices under a

Lunch on the run Here's a theory: a restaurant's appeal is directly proportional to the number of burns on seats when you walk past. If this is your rationale, you'll not be disappointed if you opt for lunch at Van Dyke Café () (846 Lincoln Road and Jefferson Street). Lunchtime here sees a buzzing crowd of South Beach locals and tourists splitting outside on to the sidewalk. Choose from an extensive branch menu, pasta, grills, sandwiches and fresh fruit juices finished off with a

st-cutest-pooch stakes. It also

has live jazz nightly until 2am.

Located on the corner of Dade Boulevard and Meridian Avenue, visitors walk around and through sculptor Kenneth Treister's elaborate memorial rather than simply stand and stare at it. At its centre, the huge forearm of a dying person reaches out of the ground with a rangle of desperate concentration camp victims endeavouring to climb up it. We may all know the story. but this is the kind of place where you land slice of Key Lime pie. The location also yourself impulsively reading the inscriptions offers great eavesdropping and general people-watching opportunities as gym-goers skate past, fashion noto-shoots wander by and locals battle it out in the I've-got-the-

Icing on the cake

Watching the volleybalt in Lummus Park (

streamline façade of the Deco district. The

reflected off the broad expanse of sand in a

last rays of daylight seem to linger here.

magical warm-pink glow stained at the

edges by coloured neon lights of Ocean Drive, Under this extraordinary light South

Beach looks like no other place on earth.

when the sun disappears behind the

Take a ride in-line skates are the preferred way to get around South Beach, it all looks like good fun, especially along the smooth promenade running adjacent to the sand Look around, however, and you won't see any clumsy beginners, only trum, tanned, barely-covered bodies gliding effortiessly by. By all means have a go, but if you fear it could all end in calamitous Frank Spencer scenes, stick to two wheels and tour the fown on a bike instead. Skate and bike hire costs \$5 per hour or \$15 a day (around £3 and £10) at Super Skates, (3 Washington Ave and 14th - about half the price of hire at the numerous huts along the beach



Check in the heart of the Deco Distract (Ocean Drive Instruced 5th and 14th Street) is the obvious place to stay arounte among the beachiron; horely is the Pelican 🕣 826 Ocean Drice, 001 305 673 3473), circled by Diesel mans with the help of Sweetish designer, Magnit Ethland. The strictly Deco exterior belies a fabrically

disch interior with 25 themed morns including, innerna Others, the Psychedelic room, Stars and Stopes and Me Tarzan You Vain. Prices from \$160 (£100) Discount beachfront accommodation gas be as ranged as the tourist office 2 (1800 Collins Avenue) which offers up to 40 per cent off the walk-mirate on women't the Ocean Drive Deco hotels, but good value can also be found a block or two back from the beach. Two clean and friendly establishments worth noting are the and menoly establishments would noting.

Riviere Apart Hotel (3) (1424 Collin, Avenue, 01)

305 531 3488, e-mail riviere) @aot.com) and Villa Paradiso (1415 Collins Avenue, 001 305 532 0616, e mail villap@gate.net)

Budget travellers should head for Clay Hotel and ernational Hostel @ which offers well-located dorm-style accommodation for \$13 [E8] a night. Although not particularly homely, the Clay's international popularity makes it a great place for solo travellers to make new friends.

An aperitif

It is not so much what you drink, but where you drink it. If you want to mingle with models, try and blag your way into the Living Room (9) on the Strand (671 Washington Avenue, 001 305 532 2340). If you get past the doormen, head for the VIP lounge where a gelsha will present you with a bottle of Absolut, a bucket of ice and a pitcher of cranberry juice. Alternatively, if that sounds like your worst nightmare. head for the Abbey Brewing Company (1115 16th Street at Alton road, 001 305 538 8110) for a wide range of no-nonsense beers including their own microbrews on tap. Chances are, though, you will end up joining the crowd ing \$5 beers and listening to some great live music in the brash, but entertaining bars along Ocean Drive.



Why go now? For blue skies, a fine stretch of sand and the ameless vanity of life on this slender sandbar, three miles out across Biscayne Bay from mainland Miami. A fashion industry hotspot, this is where tans are perfect, butts are firm and everything vies for your appreciative attention, even the candy-coloured buildings. t may be a little narcissistic, but embrace that old cliché "life's a beach" and you'll love the place, although probably not as much as t loves itself.

Get your bearings The easiest way to get to South Beach from Miami International Airport is by Super Shuttle, You won't have to wait long for one of these bright blue vans to appear in the underpass right outside baggage reclaim. At \$11 (around £7) plus a tip, the fixed fare to South Beach may be more expensive than the elusive public buses, but they offer the luxury of a door-to-door service. Take a business card before you get out and remember to book your return Super Shuttle 24 hours before (305 871

2000 24). At the Beach itself, you'll need no more

than this map to find your way around.

A spot of sun worship Although ethnically and religiously diverse. the people of South Beach unite in their worship of the sun. Most days, a large congregation gathers along the miles of sand to bathe in the golden rays, play beach games and swim in the turquoise water. Part-time sun worshippers from the UX are welcome among the throngs, although it is worth noting that different social groups tend to congregate in specific areas. At the southern end of the beach between South Pointe and 5th Avenue you will find the surfers. It is also the area that Latin American families prefer, so topless bathing s likely to cause offence here. From 5th to around 14th Street is the most crowded with the young. At and tanned, and the gay seach is focused around 12th, opposite The Palace Bar and Grill. Nude bathing is

aion Hotel (700 Ocean Drive, 001 305 538 0133). At \$18 per bound, the 21b entrée doesn't come cheap, but this is a superb seafood rarity that should not be missed.

Take an early evening walk along Ocean Drive to survey the alfresco eating

opportunities: Seafood is the dominant theme, with many restaurants displaying a fresh

selection out on the sidewalk. The dish that caught my eye was piled with the monstrous

legs of the Alaskan snow crab (on the menu at "A Fish Called Avalon", (1) under the

A walk in the park For a bit of greenery, head for South Pointe Park (B) at the very tip of the peninsular. Narrowly saved from the ravages of developers who have thrown up some absurdly disproportionate condominium blocks at this end of the beach, the park makes a pleasant alternative to sand on a sunny afternoon, it is popular with families and alfresco diners, but you will have to arrive early to get a pitch at one of the purpose-built barbecue sites. If you are not picnicking, the South Pointe Seafood House and Brewing Company @ offers fine dining away from the hustle, bustle and traffic of Ocean Drive. The park also has an observation tower with enough elevation to survey the city and watch oversized cruise ships slipping in and out of the Port of Mami (1) through Government Cut.



All photos by Jon Highler

GLOBAL AGENDA

Valencia The arrival of spring means the lively, week-long Fallas festival to Valencians, a celebration that has its roots in the times when craftsmen discarded and burnt candle-holders they no longer needed as the days became longer. Huge papier-maché lptures - often efficies of politicians and other public figures - are constructed, paraded in processions and then furnt in bonfires at the climax if the festival. Throughout the week, prizes are awarded for the most elaborate and outrageous designs, while daily firework displays are the precursor to an extravagant and gunpowder-fuelled finale. Valencia, Spain (00 34 963 510 417 for details) from Monday to Friday, free

More than 2,300 retail outlets will be participating in this year's Dubai Shopping Festival, which has been organised around the theme of "The Family Get-Together of the Millennium". As well as the myriad goods and services on offer at reduced rates including special deals on travel and baggage allowances – there will be children's events, raffles, film festivals, fashion shows,



street theatre and other entertainment. And, as an added attraction, the Dubai World Cup, the world's richest horse race, which has a £2.5m purse, takes place slap-bang in the middle of the proceedings, on 28 March. Dubai, United Arab Emirates (00 971 4 219 065 for details) from Thursday to 14 April

The French painter Raoul Dufy is well-known for his depictions of boat races and racecourse meetings. His vibrant colours pick out the fashionable clothing of the racegoers that his friend, the dress designer Paul Poiret, suggested he study. But Dufy

also worked with textiles and ceramics, and the retrospective at Lyoo's Musée des Beaux-Arts includes examples of this work, as well as watercolours, drawings and engravings, with a view to illustrating the diversity of his art.

The exhibition, which includes pieces never shown before in public, will also be at Barcelona's Picasso museum from 29 April until 11 July. Musée des Beaux-Aris de Lyon, 20 place des Terreuux, France (00 33 472 10 1740) to 18 April, closed Tues, admission FF25

Dublin

It's St Patrick's Day next Wednesday and Dublin's festival (pictured) is now Ireland's biggest annual celebration. This year, it marks the official start to the country's millennium festivities, which means that the street theatre, fireworks, parades, and music and dance should be more extravagant than before - and it's going to be non-stop partying from now until next January. We are told to "expect the

unexpected" and to "prepare for the weird". Throughout Dublin, Ireland (details, 00 353 1 1550 224 324) from today to Wednesday SHARON GETHINGS

24-HOUR ROOM SERVICE: THE DELANO, SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI



Delano. arguably the most chic of the many Art Deco slabs in South Beach.

BEHIND AN

Owned by Ian Schrager (the man behind the Paramount and Royaltoo in New York, the Mondrian in Los Angeles and, soon, four botels in London), the Delano caters for the traveller for whom a perfectly mixed Cosmopolitan is more important than a tree shoeshine kit.

A typical day may see Kate Moss in the lounge, Yasmin Le Bon and her daughters in the . pool and a smattering of Hollywood starlets around the bar. The garden area even has giant mirrors propped against trees. How convenient.

Despite all this celebrity spotting, the real star is the hotel itself. The public areas are calm and beautifully furnished, with oversized sofas, elegant bar stools and discreet chaiseslongues. There is a "kitchen" complete with a long, communal breakfast table and a half-inside, half-outside dining area, the Blue Door, that offers everything from simple, grilled fish to mounds of fries. (A tip from Ms Moss

herself, order the children's portions; they're big enough, and cheaper.)

It could be argued that all

these beautiful people (including the staff) make lying beside the gently sloping pool or oo an outdoor sofa a bit, well, intimidating. Not true: the poseurs are too self-interested to ootice. The Delano is a great base for trawling the architecture, brilliant secondhand shops and night-life along Miami Beach. That is, if you can drag yourself away from the cocktails, beauty treatments, delicious food and sheer relaxation of the hotel

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION The Delano is at 1685 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida 33139 (00 1 305 672 2000 or fax 00 1 305 532 0099).

Time to Miami International airport: about 40 minutes at busy times of day, but you can pass the time peering at the marinas and waterside homes of the rich and famous.

ARE YOU LYING COMFORTABLY? If your idea of comfort is a nice

chintry pillow and pot-pourri, don't even check in. The rooms are white-on-white minimalism. which probably explains why



guests even wear their shades inside. Rooms range from sleek, if small, standard to penthouse suites and two-storey poolside "cottages". These have balconies and double-height outdoor linen curtains that a cute bellboy draws each evening at 6pm. Beds: Super-wide, with crisp white duvets and pillows. And the sofas in the cottages are

large enough for an extra body to bed down in. Freebies: At first glance, pretty minimal, but behind a cabinet door you'll find a mini-kitchen complete with an "ironic" snack selection - Cheeto's, corn chips and Hershey chocolate. A brushed steel wall-sconce holds a fresh green apple with the legend "An apple a day keeps the doctor away", and the lotions and potions in the bathroom beat anything at Boots. Bathroom: White, natch. A freestanding bath with all-around

shower curtain took a bit of getting used to, but it's clean and efficient, and a small plumbing problem was dealt with within five minutes of a call to maintenance.

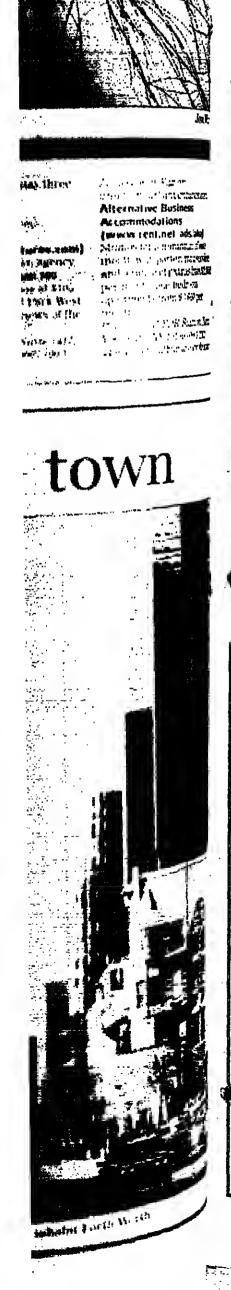
KEEPING IN TOUCH TV: The cottages have two: one up, one down - and they are cased in white to match the decor. All US channels are accessible (and compulsive) and videos are also available. Radio: As above, and as belits a groovy young hotel, there are also two CD-players. The volume goes really high, too. Phone/fax/Internet: Faxes are delivered on the hour from reception.

Newspapers: Your choice is delivered to the room and a discerning choice of papers. magazines and books is on sale in the hotel shop.

THE BOTTOM LINE A standard city-view double room costs \$345 (£220) per room per night. If you want a partial view of the ocean, a double room will cost \$395 (£253) and a full ocean view will cost \$450 (£290). A poolside "cottage" costs \$975 (£625) per night and sleeps up to four people. I'm not paying that: See Jon

Winter's advice above.

LISA MARKWELL



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rousyoun, driving and carding, seeks taller, like-mind-ed, professional male gradu-ate, agod 35-40, no ties, for romanitic friendstrip, Turkish speaker prefaired. North or central London area, 15573 BEAUTY IN DEVONSHIRE Attractive, beautiful woman. Attractive, beautiful woman, 40. seeks opposite, for trav-el, art, tita and all it antails. WEST PENNINES LADY

With attitude! Seeking N/S male friend, 65-75, to share intarest in the arts and meta-physics. GSOH and a kind and honest nature essential. 175-158 LOOKING FOR ENRICHMENT Attractive, slim, pente, affec-tionate, intelligent woman,

enjoys most things in life, seeks tallish man, 55-65, who's warm and sensitive SW London. 12:5574 CREATIVE SOUL MATE Funky, arty, warm platnum blonde temale, 52, loves cin ema, jazz, an, seeks confi-dent. N S man, for a rela-lionship. North London area. \$25572 WARM AND SENSITIVE Attractive female, 45, 57, onde hair, big blue eyes,

fun to be with, be Surrey, 12:5644

HEY, GENTLEMAN, 60-70 You should realise what you're missing. Attractive, vivacious, educated lady, seeking an unattached, interesting, warm-hearted man. I'm great fun, a good conversationalist and I make excellent coffee. NW ter. **13**5448

ATTRACTIVE
Sim, fair, funny lady, seeks
gentleman, 50ish, warm,
fun, special, with lovely
home, property, who enjoys
diving out, theatre, travel
etc. London/South area preferred "PS-LES" ferred. 1275463 EMPTY ROOMS

imeligent, blande single mum, 5'6", slim build, gradu-ate, enjoys science fiction, rock music, officeat humour, politics, animals, home life, seeking a deep-thinking, Intelligent male, 35-45 for a fusion of minds. South Wales or anything 1275382 ORIENTAL SPICE Fillpina lady, 42, widow, one child, honest and sincere, seeking N/S, tall, sincere and caring men, with 40-50, GSOH, must be employed, for friendship and possible relationship art 767.

relationship. 227767 ROMANTIC GRADUATE REQUIRED Lady graduate, 40s, trim, no ties, enjoys country walks, ties, ergoys courary wairs, wining, dining, watersports, travel, theatre, dancing, good conversation, living on the South Coast, seeking a tall, educated, slimmish gent, under 52, non-smoker, for a relationship, 275498

VARM WOMAN Female, 52, seeking a warm man. Sheffield. 12:5497 AQUARIAN AQUARIAN Female, 38, 5'8", dark aubum hair, brown eyes, seeks tall, N/S, witty. Intelli-gent chap, 40-50, GSOH. must love countryside, ani-mals, visiting ancient sights, SW area. 274762 MAD MARCH HARE

Female, 38, loves country-side, Africa, cinema, laugh-ter, pasta, fun, seeks for 1999 a like-minded, bal, spontaneous man, 35-45, NS, GSOH essential. London based. 12:4763 VIBRANT WOMAN
Furny, striking, affectionate,
intelligent, happy lemale, 39
no kids, enjoys travel, mountains, cinema, conversation,
books, friends and good
food, seeking a stratar, ord

food, seeking a similar, pro-fessional male, Oxford erea. Lively, intelligent, friendly female, 24, with strong Christian faith, Into youth work, pulos, nursing, seeking a man, who makes her lauch and len't wells! laugh and isn't weird. Cambridge area, 12:5506

music, countryside, seeking

55, no ties, with a GSOH, who doesn't iron his anorak.

SEEKING SOUL MATE
Petite black woman, siam
build, enjoys holidays, good
food, keeping fit, seeking a
mala, 35-45, GSOH, for
companionship,
friendship/relationship, N/S
preferred, 25521

preferred. \$5521

LANCELOT...
...The Lady of the Lake beckons. Sürn, petite, fit, warm, bright, intelligem, attractive widow, seeks talish. slim, fit, gallant, special man, 50-60sh, NS, for a long-term relationship, Near London preferably, \$75516

TAUREAN SCOT

TAUREAN SCOT Petite, attractive, taurean woman, enjoys world travel,

books, arts, good wine and flowers, seeking a sout mate, 50-60, with similar

NORFOLK DIVA
Independent, hard-working,
professional woman, mid50s, sometimes sparking,
seeleng new male friend, to
share city and country pleasures and a laugh with. No
old movies, 255328
BRUISED
BRUISED

BRUISED
POLISH FLOWER
Intelligent, vegetarian
lemale, 37, N/S, seeks kind,
gentle, sensitive, non-judgemental Christian man, with
SOH, for friendship, possible
relationship, evenings out
and fun. 255456

nterests, located in NW

England. 175329 NORFOLK DIVA

JUNOESQUE BEAUTY Now slightly faded, to attrac-tive grandmother, 67, seek-ing a true mala friend, with GSQH, to share theatre. music, travel, metaphysics and a belief in miracles. NW Manchester, 275517 WARM AND WITTY Attractive, Interesting and wise women, 40s, Into art,

Attractive, educated black female, 37, N/S; likes travel and socialising, seeks tall 30-something male, any race/nationality, for friendship, possible romance. Must be genuine and caring. East Midlands area, 225390 PERSONABLE PROFESSIONAL.

PROFESSIONAL
Slim, attractive lady, mid40s, varied interests - cinema, travel, theetre, reading,
dining cut, seeking a gentleman, 48-55, similar interests, for friendship, possibly
leading to more.
London/Surrey based.
215319
ARTISTIC
Well-travelled mature

Well-travellod, mature female student, blonde hair, effervescent personality, seeks cultured male com-panion, 40-50, with half/shut hair and specialized. panion, 40-50, with bald/short hair and sparkling eyes, who loves life/travel. Any nationality. Surrey based. 175416

COME INTO MY LIFE Tall, fil, fair, slim fermale, 43, youthful in mind/body, soeks tall, dark-skinned male, for friendship/relationship and to cherish. Cambs. 175452

MI THERE!

WEST LONDON
Tall, slim, fit, attractive, independent, professional remale, 45ish, likes most outdoor sports, cooking, concerts, theatre and smoky wine bars, seeking an imeli-gent, fun-loving and gen-uine, career-minded-male, for a possible relationship. 754.67

SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
Good-looking female, just
45, 5'4". GSOH, fight
brown/blue, self-employed,
likes classical music, story
telling, theatre, travel, arts,
horse riding, sailing, sports,
seeking a special hiendshipmelationship, London,
255640

STRONG, SOMETIMES
VULNERABLE
Responsibly hedonistic,
attractive, fit, thoughtful, professional lemate, 33, seekleg a similar male, 32-40.

MAD FOR IT! MAD FOR ITI
Mad. happy girl. 20, 57",
smokar, brown/blue, enjoys
gigs and chilling out, seeking funny, handsome bloke,
25-35, with similar interests,
for friendship and maybe
more. #T5526
WANTED: ONE MAN
Cheefful, friendly teacher,
24, seeking e caring, active
male, 25-35, who likes rebbits, music and can make
me laught. Northampton.
#T5507

CHRISTIAN LADY CHRISTIAN LADY
Fernale, 25, 5'3", auburn
hair, blua eyes, GSOH, N/S,
enjoys eating in or out, cinema, bowling and having fun,
seeks N/S, attractive, caring,
decent Christian 1911, 25-30,
with similar interests and
GSOH. West Midlands,
S48.

MAN FRIDAY tive brunette, 27. Attractive brunets, 27, snloys conversation, theatrs, music, chema and good food, is seeking an honest, caring male, aged 26-33, for new advantures. London based. 25389
HOLDING OUT

HOLDING OUT Intelligent, attractive, slim, bubbly blande, 30, 5'4", seeks slim, handsome, intelligent, sincere, honest, auccessful, professional white gentleman, 27-35, 6', attractive to the seeks of white gentleman, 27-35, 6, athletic build, for happiness and long-term relationship, Herts/Bucks area preferably, 25-5211

ARE YOU.

...tall, craggy, 50ish, adia-cent to north Bucks, fit but not fanatic, sensitive and humorous? If you like to walk, talk, play and have an idea or two, this artistic and some loving, 12:5371 LOOKING FOR ENRICHMENT

Sociable, engaging, warm-hearled male, 34-38, required for sociable evenings, quality conversa-tion and meaningful company. London area, 12:5391 FIRST-TIME ADVERTISER

HI THERE!
Attractive, dark, artistic.
offvorced female, younglooking 44, teaches, writes,
shops, enjoys good conversation, tood, travel, films,
theatre, music, varied tastes,
seeking a warm, fun, intelligent man, similar age/interests, S Wales based.
175304 IT5304
INVESTIGATE LONDON
From smoky jazz bars to
musty book shops. Female,
37, leading complicated life,
seeks straightforward relationship, with chap, 40+.
IT5429

MILLENNIUM KAN

AT IRACTIVE
PROFESSIONAL
Fun, serious, considered,
reliable ternale, 27, with
GSOH, enjoy diring in or out,
music, singing, theatra, you
name 11 by it. I'm seeking a
Social man to entance my special man to enhance my life. London. 125311

Attractive Midlande-based lawyer, 38, into tennis, danccareer-minded, to enjoy life and laugh with. 125318 ATTRACTIVE

ONION FIELDS Divorced male, 40, 6', no fies, seeks white, professional, sincere woman, for something special. South London. 775208

APAN

for Everyone

There is

Someone

DOUBLE TROUBLE Two good-looking men, 23, GSOH, seeking two skim, attractive, older women, to share nights out and in. SWEET SURRENDER SWEET SUPPLEMBER
Very attractive, very dominant male, 25, seeks loving,
submissive female, 18-35 for
fun, friendship and love?

EASYGOING Male. 32, non-materialistic professional, enjoys countryside. music, guitar playing, singing, going out, converse tion and keep-fit, is seeking a similar caring, thoughtful Yorkshira area. 12:5467

MATURE BRIGHTONIAN Septuagenarian, seeks thoughtful, intelligent lady, k share his love of concerts, ballroom dancing and country walks. Brighton based.

GENUINE MALE Good-looking male, 19, enjoys cinema, sports etc., seeking a white female, 18-25, for fun, triandship, possibly leading to a relationship, 25464
BYPASSED IN

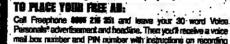
NEWBURY....
....30-something, somehow male, pragmatic, romartic, cynical idealist, accidentally solvent and stumbling towards maturity, would wel-come an intelligent, tolerant female companion, to share triumph, tragedy and in between. Berks. \$25584

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adaptable, ambitious and sometimes hot-headed. Aries people long for the luxuries in life. Compatibility: Leo, Sagittarius and Aries.

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LATIN IS EXCITING? Box 4161? Take 100? I rang WILL YOU BE MINE? Very jolly man, early 30s, 5'9", black hair, brown eyes,

you too late, so please call mai 1375381 seeking women

IT'S TIME Intelligent, caring male, 31, good looks and SOH, keen good looks and SOH, keen on travel, walking, finess, music, cookery and stimulating company, looking to meet genuine female, 26-34, for fun, friendship and гоппапсе. 27:5515

romance, 375515
BON VIVEUR
Sensitive, considerate, funny
male, 38, with wide interests
and firends, seeking a funry
and open-minded woman,
aged 30-38; for romance,
35530
BREAKING THE CODE?
Enimestic, black, London

Enigmatic, black, London male, 39, 6, graduate, solvent, cultured, good to look at, better to know, seeking an absorbing, enquiring. strong-minded, slightly neu-rotic, feminish female, 32-42, for spring fun and sea-sonal imperatives. 275652 AVERAGE-LOOKING MALE AVEHAGE-LOOKING MALE
Caring, honest, genuine, 26,
seeking a female, aged 2035, who's very outgoing, loving and sincere. 275054
VEHY ATTRACTIVE
Male, 5'87, creative, GSOH,
seeks slim, intelligent,
attractive female, for a close
friendship, in West
Yorkshire. 275583

well-built, enjoys going out, eating out, films, seeling a female, for friendship, possi bly more. Large women a most welcome. 275646 SPRING THOUGHT

Man, 49, mildly barmy, raff-ish, tall, alim, N/S, seeks female, to try and recapture "that first, fine, careless rap-ture". East Midlands/anywhere, 125648 LIFE'S WHAT YOU MAKE IT

Handsome, witly male, 32, into cinema, theatre, the arts, seeking an attractive, challenging and sportly woman, aged 22-32, for shared kila experience, 175466. **25**5466 ATTRACTIVE,

...40, well educated, trav-elled and sincere, enjoys art, literature, rock and opera, seeks ternale, 30-45, for triendship, possibly romance. Northern Home Counties area, 175639 TRAVELLING MAN Tall, fit mala, 40, with motor bike. I'm a laughing, drink-ing, smoking, music-loving traveller, in search of a bright, slim-built, solo woman, to explore life's mysteries with. Bristol based. 12:5585

WANTED: warm, with personality, sought by this slim, creative thoughtful bloke, aged 34. More Nicholas Lindhurst HANDSOME

₹5496

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL Cheerful NHS professional 40s, GSOH, Into fun, reading, music, country walks, old book shops, cuddles, seeks petite, N/S profession at female, for togetherness,

y, Birmingham. 725580 Tall, charming, light-haired, ourse, sain sight cao, young 48, stylish, romentic, attractive, solvent, professional, is seeking a compatible woman, 36-42, to enjoy life, laughter and companionship. Firchmond, 12:5587 YOU'LL BE AMAZED! Tall, stim, well-bred, professional, sincere, kind female, with GSOH. Seeing is believing - I'm wicked and fun and I'm seeking a man. Bristol. 25:570

than Amle, East Midlands area. 225576 KENT GRADUATE Mala, not into pubs, clubs, seeking a tall, serious, femi-nine, professional woman, NS, no ties, for relationship

with a view to marriage. INDEPENDENT MEANS
Author and trained lawyer,
35, 6'2", good looks, is seeking a woman, 25-35, for
romance in London, 'RT5446
FRESH START!
Good-looking, professional
male, 31, 5'10", seeks skinny ite. N/S profession

Attractive, tun, successful, professional, young 44, intersts include tennis, walkir esis include rennis, watering salling, holidays, shopping, seeking simmish, warm woman, aged 35-41, for everything, including possi-ble family, 225-468



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SE SEESSELE: We suggest that the first masting always be held in a public place and that you do not reveal your has name, address or home phone number said you are consortable doing so. ATTRACTIVE MAN, 38 With expressive blue eyes and personality, seeking a chic, caring, sweater-wearing MUSCLE WOMAN Body-builder female, with

chic, caring, sweater-wearing chick, 25-45, to be my lov-able companion and to build a nest with. Dorset/Hants ares. 175645 BARBICAN HALL Mahler 2, 21st Feb, Attractive lady, nose ring, DMs, gave me a gorgeous smile as I feft. You were in seat T3, I was in T7. Please call, 20:5523

MAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS

male, 31, 510 , seeke skonry
or big-built-bubbly lemale,
any agé or colour. Very large
women welcome. If you
leave a message i promise
to get back to you. 255530
EXCELLENT MAN
Attractive fund successful

READ THIS AND RING! Honest, down-to-earth, blue-eyed male, 33, 6', good per-sonality, likes cinema, conseeking a like-minded female, 26-36, for friendship and a long-term relationship, London area, #55453

TAUREAN MAN TAUREAN MAN
Intelligent, handsome, prolessional man, 45, into dancingrather than arts, bugthing
rather than sport, southul,
seeks skrimish, attractive
female, under 40, who can
laugh or cry. North London
area preferably. 25:5579

London area, 155453
WRITER
Male, 36, 59°, sfim, Jewish,
medis job, thoughtful, cultured, smusing, loves modem art, classical music,
country walls, is seeking a
kind, compatible female,
aged 22-32, 155327
SLEEPLESS IN
GUERNSEY
Civil servant, 25, 578°,
brown/blue, kind, caring and
romartic, GSOH, enjoys
pubs, music, keeping lit, eating out, travel, seeks lady,
18-30, similar interests,
GSOH for friendship, possibly leading to mora, 175396
WOODY ALLEN
FRIEDA KAHLOW
Muticultural, sincere, acade-HIEDA KAHLOW
Multicultural, sincere, academic male, 35, seeking a
witty female, possibly with a
tattoo, to shara the arty
aspects of life or salsa.
Manchester. 275432 BRISTOL BASED

Caring, professional male, late 40s, 6', cosmopolitan, into spirituality, sport, good communication, honesty ar communication, honesty and empathy, seeking a ferralnine, warm-hearted ferrale, to share out humanity with me. 17:5184

ATTRACTIVE MALE
Would like to meet an intellectual female, for romance and relationship. 17:5431

EFFERVESCENT AND GENUINE AND EXTROVENT Single male, young 38, non-smoker, no ties, enjoys life, itt and active, keen on sport (tootball and cricket), cine-ma, eating out, having a drink and also travel. If this rates your fancy, please City professional, 31, 6', N/S, athletic build, seeking attractive, sikn female, 5'6' N/S, with caring soul for friendship & romance. London, 125455 takes your fancy, please give me a call. 12:5430 SAILING ADVENTURE

AND EXTROVERT

Male, mid-30s, slim, fit and active, seeking a similar temale, for who knows what? Beds/Herts/Bucks ORIGINAL MATERIAL

Next three to five years, in 40' yacht? Me: 6', pre-sentable, easygoing, experi-enced sailer, seeking slim-mish, seasick resistant. happy, N/S iemale mate. 50sh. South West. 255210 Creative graduate male, aged 31, seriously into songwriting, music, cinema, poeiry and people, is seeking a with, tascinating temale, for turn, trisendship because the control of the con HI THERE
Plymouth mala, early 40s,
GSOH, with an interesting
Job and a comfortable
litestyle, enjoys walking, saling, cooking, music, onema,
theatre, arts and society,
seeking a like-minded, funtoving female, 17:5325 HI THERE and inspiration. Tyneside area. 275330 SINGLE WHITE MALE

SANGLE WHITE MALE
Genuine SE London guy.
40, 5'11", own home, no
bes, solvent, into countryside, seeside and sailing,
seeks sim/medium-built,
genuine girlfifend, 275398
ATTRACTIVE ARCHITECT
Interior designer, early 30s. Interior designer, early 30s. 5'10", slim build, green eyet likes music, creativity, loves children, seeking a fit, slim, a street and continue. fun, attractive and creat female, similar age and pro-fession, with morals and val-ues, to settle down with.

London and surrounding area. 255449 CONTINENTAL PROFESSIONAL Central London/Geneva Cantral London/Geneva man, seeks attractive, warm, staffest, cucidly ledy, 50ish, for fun, triendship, travel, the attra and more. \$7508 in the staffest of th

WELL TRAVELLED Educated 6'er, 55, seeks Ms Right, no great expectations, but If you like the things London can offer and would

vegetarian food, pubs. like great company, I'm here! 225510 RARE OPPORTUNITY Exceptional man, unexpect-edly available, international company director, young 47, 6°3", successful, good-lock-ing, kind, considerate, lock-

WHY AM I SINGLE?
Nice-looking male, 32, 59°, graduate, slim, unpretentious and considerate, with GSOH, Interested in music, arts, enjoys racket sports, cycling, travelling, seeking a smiller female, 25°, 33, to

share life's special moments with London, \$35513

EDINBURGH BASED
Single, well-built mala, 32,
510°, blandfolue, N/S, likes
cinema, restaurants, shopping, pubs, clubs, swimming,
seeking female, 24-32,
GSOH, for friendship and
more, 355209
TOWN/COUNTRY HOUSE,
Other works north baside ing for a slim, attractive female, 30s, to share life with. Hants based. 12:5512 GERMAN GERMAN/
ITALIAN OPTIMIST
Tall, brown-eyed, brownhaired man, 32, into
Budchiem, salling, sky driving, art, philosophy, seeking an unconventional, Intelligent, open-minded, tall and
attractive woman, 25-35,
any origin, London, 25:509
WHY AM I SINGLE?
Nice-looking male, 32, 5-9*.

mad guy. South Wales based. 1274976 CALL ME CALL ME
Professional chap, 39, 64, is seeking a lady, to share frendship, films and a love of the countryside. London. Blucks or Northants area. 25321
MANCHESTER MAN
Broad-shouldered, honest, reliable, nizerating resempting 1
seeks interesting temple.

seeks interesting temale, 20+, with varied interests. CUDDLY OLDER WOMAN? Honest and dependable, quite shy, caring country lad, 30, graduate, seeking an outwardly conventional, fuller-figured lady, 45-60, with a sense of the riclou-lous, for close friendship. NW, 375323

SWEETNESS Tender, loving, attractive, confident and kind male, 26, seeking a feminine, petite female, 16+, for friendship romance and lasting love. EXOTIC ADVENT

EXCITIC ADVENT Kind, sensitive, kind, honest, reliable, attractive male, 32, 59°, dark halr/eyes, seeks special, understanding, exoti-ic lady, 20-40, any national-ty, to spend some time with. London or Middlesex area. 725380 DIET PEPSI MAN Musician, writer are

Dict PEPSI MAN
Musician, writer and lecturer,
early 40s, silm, with own
hair/viagra, seeks female
soul mate, to share care
society, city breaks and wild
times. Brighton, 125372
SINGLE WHITE MALE
Water with fit senters and SINGLE WHITE MALE
Warm, witty, fit, solvent, educated male, 37, seeking similar, black or Indian lady, to
share thoughts, laughter and
the good things in Ida.
12:5434
HONEST AND HANDSOME
Graduate, 38, 5*11", solvent,
successful in the arts, loves
outdoors, fine wine, "Friends"
and good conversation
(sometimes silly, sometimes

(sometimes silly, sometimes serious), aeeking like-mind-ed, silm girl, under 40. London, 175418

Chat Lines

seeking men "

MATURE GAY MAN Romantic mate, tikes art and music, seeks similar male triend, any age, for tun and triendship. Gloucs. \$25633

Good-looking, straight-act-ing, non-scene, gay French

ing, non-scene, gay French guy, 26, onjoys onema, pubs, travel, seeking a similar, 20-26, with similar interests, English/French speaking, 125561
SINCERE CHAP
Gay chap, 27, cordial, thoughtful, intelligent, quiet, vaned interests, non-scene, seeking portly, professional 45-60, for romance and tile together, London or country, 125637.

AFFECTIONATE

Male, 50, wearing well, interest in arts, cinema, world travel, food, music, seeking a female, for happy times and a stable relationship.

London. 125314

ATTRACTIVE
SWEDISH MAN
Male, 23, brown/blue, fikes concerts, nature, deep conversation, walks seeking a female, 20-30, rec'head preferred. London or Middlesex. 1253/7 AFFECTIONATE
Good-looking gay postgraduate male, 25, 5°7°, browny
green, medium build, enjoys
hiking, cinema, reading,
meeting triends, seeking a
similar affectionate male, for

a one-to-one relationship. West Midlands area. 255461 GAY MALE Male, 55. 6', large build, anjoys all the arts, good lood and wine, long walks, seeks man, for a 1-2-1 rela-tionship. Leicestershire area preferred. 15:53:74 ASIAN SOUGHT
Tall, silm, intelligent, romantic, aducated male. 56, into salling, travel, reading, cinema, music and more, seeking an attractive, articulate, tactle Asian female, for friendship, maybe mora.

Notis based. 25379
LIKES A LAUGH
Young male. 41, cultured,

HOPELESS ROMANTIC WANTED Asian guy, 35, 5'8", medium/ masculina build, N.S, likes masculma outid, RCS, intes cnema, duning out. seeks white guy, under 35, for frendship, relationship. Leicestershire/ East Midlands area. 125375

Young male, 41, cultured, diverse, amusing, active, seeks temale, 28-33, tor triendship, romance and a tamity. Filing ma and I'll make you smile. Bath. 2r5383
IF YOU'RE LOOKING... LOOKING FOR LOVE Good tooking, gay postgrad-uate male, 26, 6'2', brown/blue, medium build, ...this man has love to give. Humorous, professional male, 5'11", slim build, big bike, house in Oxford, likes enjoys theatre, walking, cin-ema, reading, seeking simi-lar, special man, for 1-2-1 relationship, NW England. NOT TOO WILD

music, socialising. You want mora? 125305 EDINBURGH BASED NOT TOO WILD Sim, medium-built, sincere gay male, 45, enjoys cine-ma, theatre, quiet nights in, swimming, travel, more, seeks similar, stable male, for friendship and lasting relationship, Lincs, 275203 allernative LIFESTYTE THIC CHICK PRINCE

Culet weekends beside beautiful beaches, offered to stressed, slim, professional London girl, aged 20-40, by handsome, romantic, slightly Desired by aspiring liberine, for funly fettsh clubbing. Me: handsome, warm and hon-est man, 30s, You: stylish, confident, self-aware female,

able to share emotionally, intellectual, hedonistic adventures, London, 125634 LONDON BASED Boyish man/woman, seeks gittigh girl, 18+, for lovings, cubbling and mad times. **≖**5620

TAKING CONTROL? Compliant, presentable, per-sonable, professional, post-grad pilot, prefers providing power-play, pour proportion-ate, pan-sensual partner. Alternatively, articulate, ath-letic, unassertive yet confi-

dent maia, 34, seeks equally adventurous, naturally domi nant lady, for indecent pro-posal. 10:5531 OXFORD/LONDON AREA Creativa, Intelligent man. 29, seeks obedient woman, for fun and friendship. 25577 LOOKING FOR SOUL MATE

Attractive male/emale, blonde hair and blue eyes, transsexual, wicked SOH, seeking a bisexual male, for friendship and sharing life with. Manchester. \$25397 LOOKING FOR YOU Sisexual/gay female, aged 25-35, sought by bisexual guy, 30, 5'11', professional, attractive, blond/blue, abide to build, for friendship and fun, possibly leading to more. Midlands based, 25-5419.

mora. Midlands based. 175419
SUSSEX COAST
Tall, sim. bisexual male, 48, with decent looks, seeks smilar man, for tun, fitend-ship, outdoor pursuits and sport. 175317
FEISTY, HIGH HEELED LADY.......30-55, who walks the walk. Are you seeking a domestic companion, who doesn't just talk the tail? Then call this attractive male, 39, 175394

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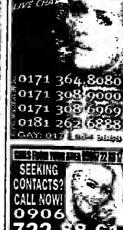
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to adverts





Chat Lines



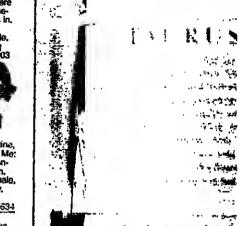






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m't smoke, don't drink, don't drive ar and have a relatively high ome, and am feeling guilty that I'm making enough of a contribution he exchequer. What should I do? Gordon, Westminster

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COMPINE 4. 7

ke every effort to ensure that you t have children. That way, at least Il miss out on one of your tax wances. Oh, and don't talk too freely ut these feelings you have, as other 1-earners might spread rumours ut your suitability to be numbered ang them.

lived with my partner for three rs, and we dated for a year or so ore that. Before we moved in

ther I bought her a kitten, Nabila, alf-year-old cat and we've recently lised that she's pretty much all we e in common any more. So, ctantly, we've decided to call it a and I'm going to move out. The

problem is that I can't bear the thought of leaving Nabila behind. My ex feels the same way about ber, and though we've been civilised up to this point, we are in danger of total breakdown over this issue. Can you suggest a compromise? Mike, Glastonbury

Sorry, Mike, but I can't. As you say, you bought Nabila as a present for your ex, and she is, bowever painful it is for you, her property, in so far as a cat can belong to anyone. If you try to fight this, you risk total alienation from the two of them, and won't be able to negotiate visiting rights or a position as chief babysitter when your ex goes on holiday, away on business etc. I know that this is a sad situation for you, though perhaps you are partly sublimating your feelings about the loss

of the relationship in this issue? The best thing you can do for yourself is, once you are settled in your new home, to go out and get a kitten of your own. You may think that no cat can replace Nabila, and it's probably true;

but after a few weeks playing with a bundle of fur and springs you may well find that your heart starts to swell with affection again.

Dear Serena. Help! I've forgotten Mothering Sunday! What do 1 40?

Edward, Sandringham

I guess you'll have to go along with the old girl's guest list for the wedding now, Eddie

Dear Serena. My wife has a wellpaid career, and when the children came along we decided that I would take care of them. We are extremely happy with this arrangement; my

wife has always regarded her career as precious, and I have discovered all sorts of elements to my personality that I enjoy and value. The problem, though, is this: when I collect my six-year-old from school and the fouryear-old from kindergarten,

I get cold-shouldered by all the mums at the school gates. I think, to begin with, that some of them thought I was a stray pervert, but they all know who I am now, and still don't seem to want anything to do with me. How do I break into this magic circle? It seems as hard as breaking

through that glass ceiling that women are always complaining about. Mark, Chelmsford

Yes, it's an odd one, this, and I can understand how frustrating it must be that women, having taken such great strides into the bastions of masculinity, seem so reluctant to cede space to men in their traditional pursuits. As you know from your experience with your wife, by no means all women feet this way, but it's surprising how many still act out prejudices against child-rearing men.

This, however, has to change and, sadly the only person who can do it is you. Women won the right to be in the workplace by proving that they could do the jobs, and you have to do the same. Try involving yourself in school activities. This is one of the ways that, from time immemorial, women have broken down the difficulties of moving to a new area. If time is too tight for regular commitments, try asking your children who their best friends are and establishing contact with their parents. And never forget the social importance of the birthday party. Someone who has had a glass of wine and a crisp or two when coming to pick their child up is going to be hard-pressed to ignore you at the school gates the next day.

Dear Serena. Can you suggest suitable attire for a wedding in Australia? Percy and Lucia, Bournemouth

The traditional garb: shurts, boots and a tinnie for the men, print dress and fright wig for the women. Also, take a gun, and, if a kangaroo should gatecrash proceedings, don't hesitate to shoot

Dear Serena, Is chrematophobia a fear of; a) game shows, b) money, c) ageing disc jockeys, d) losing out in the ratings

war? Take your time. Chris, London

t'm not sure, Chris. Can t phone a

Knotty problems with the world today? Write to Dear Serena, The Independent, 18th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf London E14 5DL, where they will be attended to with the customary sympathy

ARIES

DON'T BE discouraged by the lethargy that suddenly underlies your brightest endeavours (it's worse for Scorpios; they've got a double dose of retrograde ruling planets). Though you are tempted to believe your great purpose is rotting from within, you must not give up. You of all people know how to keep going even though you're running on empty. Vodka is a useful substitute for whatever you're lacking. The flesh is willing enough, after all.

TAURUS

A MILD aspect with stern Saturn makes you better-looking than usual. Your Venus is disciplined rather perversely, and threats of pain and constriction bring out a sweetness and generosity which you will thoroughly enjoy, until the credit-card bills start coming in. Don't let money be such a problem. You never have enough notil you do, and then you can't spend it. Beware depression. Wallowing around listening to Paul Simon songs is not the answer

GEMINI

YOUR CONVICTION that you are in the right has never been more convincing. Energy springs eternal, ideas proliferate, work can't depress you, and nor can your friends. You will decide to change things irrevocably, in the absence of any objective analysis, the results are purely down to chance (the odds are, obviously, against you). When the Sun is doing this to your Mercury, you may overload and blow a circuit. You will go gloriously, but do you want to go at all?

CANCER

THE ADVENTURE that is waiting for you is not geographical but emotional. You are to be taken out of yourself, not out of your country. Of course, the time must be right, and conditions evolve mysteriously; but those close to you may be covertly collaborating in what you think are your secret plans (so secret, you may not yet be aware of them yourself). A reverie may provide clues to your future behaviour. You must just follow your impulse or your instinct.

POPPY FOLLY

YOUR STARS: IT COULD HAPPEN

substitutes of this part of the zodiac Clook at them - Two-Ton Tessie O'Shea, Neil Sedaka, Mallarmé, Neville Chamberlain), there is Einstein. How did someone from this slice of the Zodiac get the ideas that revolutionised physics? Is it any explanation that he was working in the Patent Office and privy to the secrets of the most inventive minds of the day?

On a much brighter note, there's also three-in-a-bed Nureyev, Diaghilev and Nijinsky (no dear, not the horse). There are also the oddities: Diane Arbus (freako photographer), Sylvia Beach (who published James Jovce's ridiculous novel), Jerry Lewis and his ghoulish telethons. Dr Livingstone who got lost and had to be found, and L Ron Hubbard, whose most sensible belief was that women are a race of intergalactic criminals sentenced to life on earth by the malevolent judiciary of a distant star system.

But let's not forget the celebrity nonentities (everyone

LEO

YOU DON'T deserve it, but here it is anyway. Your

social profile will balloon like the spinnaker on

a racing-boat, your influence will transcend your

business, your optimism will survive impossible

situations, and you will be happy. More than that,

your complete lack of objectivity will lead you

into impossible situations which you will

dominate. Yes, you're lucky as well as everything

else. This will make your colleagues and

competitors spit with frustration (but everyone

Virgo

IT'S NOT often you enjoy such a rush of energy - this must be what drugs are like, you think. But these astro-amphetamines are dangerous

in so far as they fill you with a sense of om-

ninotence, omniscience and infallibility. You, least

of anyone in the zodiac, have a right to such

feelings. But you will be useful to depressed

friends while you feel like this. Their gratitude

should be banked early. You will be better off in

Manhattan, especially while fares are cheap.

will see and be disgusted).

mong all the generally unsatisfactory else has): Eugene A Cernan, the second astronaut to walk in space (loser). Georg Simon Ohm (famous because he invented something nobody else could be bothered thinking about), Roger Norrington (a conductor, despite his name), Grover Cleveland (the only US president to have served two non-consecutive terms, and still be unknown in the rest of the world), and all the boiling rest of them - speed-skaters, country-and-western singers, berkish French poets, nutritionists, and Matthew Flinders, the English navigator who spent 12 years exploring the interior of continental Australia. "It's brown," is what he said on his return.

And then there are all the people that we aren't allowed to make fun of Michael Caine, FW de Klerk, John Updike, Adolf Eichmann, Richard "Smuggle Me Into Mecca" Burton, and Bruce Willis, whose performances in Die Hard 1 and 3 (but not 2) earn bim a sort of immortality (sort of immortal because in the end, he dies, like everyone else).

So farewell, Pisces.



SAGITTARIUS

YOUR HIGH-MINDEDNESS is useful for once, perhaps because it has a whole new voltage running through it. You expand your influence into every cranny of your social life. Your friends will be grateful for the beauty of your advice, but only those who can see such things. The ones who take you on trust will be amazed at how things turn out for them. Of course it hurts a bit at first, but only because it's getting better, surely? Actually, no.

CAPRICORN

NOW THIS is more like it, at last - it has been very dry, hasn't it? A veritable drought out there? However confused Venus may be, however strange the erotic impulses she may be beaming up at you, you will have every chance to fulfil them. A glorious, guiltless sexual eccentricity is emerging in all its power and purple colouring. And the relationship you create on its back will endure. You have the dark intelligence to see exactly what is wanted and the strength to

LIBRA

YOU FIND yourself a little steadier than normal but don't be alarmed. This instinct for fidelity and constancy is but a passing thing. However, the influence of Saturn in your love-life adds a sense of concentration which your partners find thrilling. Where, in the past, you have been easily manoeuvred, now you have a certain solidity, a substance, and this may encourage people to get naked and crush up against you. Don't be tempted to look over their shoulders. There is no one more attractive passing by.



SCORPIO

WE SHOULDN'T gloat, but powerful, graceful Scorpio suffers from a terrific astro-pratfall. Your two ruling planets, both of them, count them, go retrograde this week and stay that way for months. And if you don't know what that means, you're going to find out in the worst way. You will suffer from misconceptions, miscalculations, misinformation and miscellaneous misapprehensions, misadventures, misappropriations, missed turnings... Shall I go on?



AQUARIUS

THOSE WHO accuse you of a lack of care and compassion should be treated very harshly. They only want to manipulate you into acting against your own interests. But they are clever at administering guilt, and your exalted nature is always vulnerable to low minds. The higher you climb, the more easily they can see up your skirts. A change of scene will refresh your moral sense; some water is indicated (let's hope it's not rain). Nakedness helps, so do not be too fussy about whose.

PISCES

ALL THOSE creeps who said you wouldn't manage will be proved wrong; in rage and frustration they will turn on themselves, biting their own butts. Bear this in mind when satisfaction tempts you to smirk. Your love-life should improve with your new confidence. Appetite may substitute for desire, but nt least you are motivated. Oral skills will enhance your reputation, but don't be conned into expensive dentistry that you just don't need.

CLASSIC CARTOONS

MARTIN PLIMMER ON MARTIN HONEYSETT



F BAD posture is the hallmark f the Martin Honeysett we ee today in Private Eye or he Oldie, it has not always een so. This pre-1974 cartoon eveals a trio of unexpectedly harp-edged and vibrant haracters (even in death). .Though Honeysett's cabre sense of the idiculous has survived intact, is shoulders have slumped, is skin sagged and his

rousers filled up with gravel.

lis characters move shakily

expressions of mild despair. Often they appear to have forgotten their teeth.

Unusually, in an age of blob figures spouting gags, Honeysett takes pains to invest each of them with lifelike individual personalities. It is not unusual to spot your own bank manager in a Honeysett scenario. Attractive people, however, don't figure.

"I really don't know why," he says. "Although friends have told me that apparently, cartoonists often draw brough a world in which every ay is a bad-hair day, wearing themselves. Were my friends."



more careful over his choice of scriptwriters. Not that it was with any great feeling that be read out the bit prepared for him on how the Malvinas belong to one and not to one's bosts. Diplomacy – what is it, but war continued by other means? The Argentinian vice-president Charles Ruckauf described the remarks as "intolerable". Then nothing happened. Clearly be meant "almost intolerable".

PRINCE CHARLES ought to be

The tango needs more strut and arse than that displayed by Charles's London derrière. Clemenceau it was, I think, who said on seeing the tango that he had never seen "la gueule si triste et la derrière si gai". I would never let the Foreign

Office near my script for Puzzle Panel. It needs sensitivity and understanding, they have to be my words and mannerisms. Panellists have to write and solve puzzles for themselves. What you see is what you get. WYSIWYG applies also to

Geoffrey Durham. Before we met, Geoffrey Durham, Victoria Wood's husband, the Celebrity on Countdown and The Great Soprendo all had separate listings in my head. Meeting him produced a mental click as they got refiled under a single heading. I warmed to Durham at once, and not just because he is a fan of this column and of



Puzzle Panel. He instinctively understood the programme. I didn't have to explain the function of the bad joke I put into each programme (Q. What sort The tour, the brainchild of

of biscuits fly? A: Plane hiscuits). He also set his puzzle well. promote maths awareness by Victorians used to play a word game in which you had to identify the word in which a given unlikely-looking cluster of letters could be found. Thus XGL is found in FOXGLOVE, what it is or what it is for, let alone that it can be fun. Someand LLFR in BULLFROG. What, he asked teasingly, about thing has to be done, and Mankiewicz is trying to do it. these three chisters:

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DIMOT &

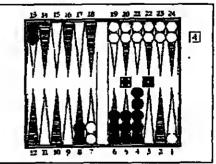
Another valued contributor to the Punel is opening The Mathemagical Mystery Tour today at 11am, at Brent Cross shopping centre in London: Prof David Singmaster, visiting professor of mathematics at South Bank University. Until 18 March you can meet mathematicians, try out puzzles and see computer interactives and video installations.

Richard Mankiewicz, aims to taking it to the people. The year 2000 has been designated World Mathematical Year by Unesco. Despite the crucial role of maths in modern life, few people know

Points to Ponder Two roads were left out of the puzzle man last week. It is reprinted here correctly for the sake of readers' sanity: Uncle Tadek goes from Tomsk to Omsk visiting each other town exactly once. Show that if the high road (BG) is not passable, it is not possible. And even if he visits towns more than once he must pass through an even number of them, unless he goes along BP Answers next week indy@puzzlemaster.co.uk

BACKGAMMON

CHRIS BRAY



WORLD CHAMPION, Jerry Grandell continues to be in inspired form, winning both the main tournament and the Super Jackpot at the recent Istanbul tournament. Here is a position from his final in the main event against Leonid Riskin. Black (Grandell) has a 41 to play.

Whatever he does be has to leave white a direct sbot. If white hits the shot he can immediately win the game by redoubling but will probably play on for a few rolls at least, as he will have a chance to win a germmon. What are black's options? They seem to be (a) 13/8 (b)6/1° (c)6/2, 5/4.

Move (a) can be discounted immediately as it leaves 17 numbers that hit whereas the other two plays both leave only

ones (11 numbers) to hit, As (b) leaves a better structure, and potentially gets rid of white's troublesome man on the 1-point, it would seem that this is much the better play and was the one selected by Grandell over the board.

But wait, all is out quite as it seems. After (c) white actually has only 9 hitting numbers. He cannot hit with 16 as after 24/23* he would not have a legal 6 to play. The rules of backgammon insist that you play as much of your roll as possible. This difference of 9 hits against tt is enough to make (c) the right play - after all, the next roll is absolutely critical.

This type of situation crops up more often than you would think - watch out for it.

THE WEEKEND REVIEW

SUNDAY TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC1

6.40 Teletubbies (1464240), 7.20 Match of the Day (7542379). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (63462). 9.30 Heaven and Earth Show (18269). 10.30 Animals in Uniform (36998), 11.00 Goodnight Sweetheart (3627), 11.30 CountryFile (4356). 12.00 On the Record (64269). 1.00 Cartoon (41105820). 1.05 EastEnders (7068917).

2.30 Tim (Michael Pale 1979 US). Weepie starring Piper Laurie and Mei Gibson (73954559).

4.15 Are You Being Served? (5480153), 4-35 Cartoon (5502443), 4.45 Masterchef 1999 (263172). 5.15 News; Weather (3404559). 5,35 Local News and Weather (844608). 5.40 Songs of Praise (731646).

6.15 All along the Watchtower (S)

St

lo Ti

6.45 Antiques Roadshow. Hugh Scully in Colwyn Bay discovers a 90year-old doll's house with all its original turnishings (S) (T) (597559).

7.30 2point4 Children. 8# creates a power-cut to encourage an evening of sparkling conversation and culture (R) (S) (T) (559).

> 8.00 Ground Force. A Kent garden is transformed in the make-over show with its nice new slot (S) (9820).

8.30 Love Town. Greina Green docusoap experiences a "rush-in-rushout" wedding (S) (T) (5627).

> 9.00 HIGHT Violent Planet, New series looking at how the natural world deals with extreme weather. See Nature Show of the Day, below (S) (T) (863795).

9.50 News; Weather (T) (246443).

10.00 The Lakes. The final episode of the series. Bernie must choose between her husband and the father of her unborn child (S) (T) (199714).

10.40 Comic Relief - the Director's Cut. With Harry Enfield (S) (570714).

11.00 Mrs Merton and Malcolm (R)(S) (T) (5608).

11.30 Heart of the Matter. Sterlisation for drug addicts? (S) (T) (363882).

12:10 The Cars That Ate Paris (Peter Weir 1974 Aust). Black comedy about a town which lures motorists to their deaths (9853115). To 140am.

BBC2

7.45 Business Café (89820). 8.15 French Experience (5067337). 8.30 Little Mouse on the Prairie (2751795). 8-50 Alvin and the Chlomunks (2755511). 9.15 Wayne Manifesto (7977408), 9.40 Wild House (3892761). 10,05 No Sweat (5293191). 10.30 Snoopy Show (9489066), 10.55 Sub Zero (1547085). 11.20 G Force (3050608), 11.50 The O Zone (5895725). 12.05 The Simpsons (3580627). 12.30 Robot Wars (76004). 1.00 Around Westminster (66288). 1.30 Sunday Grandstand (901)3998). 1.35 Sking (6735820). 2.20 Rugby League (955820). 4.45 Rugby Union (262443).4.55 Animal Zone (7873191). 5.00 Watch Out Britain (3483066). 5.15 Chimpanzee Diary (3495801). 5.35 The Natural World 831065).

6.30 The Money Programme. An exclusive interview with Gordon Brown about last week's Budget (S)

7.00 Crufts. Gaby Rosin introduces live coverage of the selection of the Crufts 1999 Supreme Champion from the NEC, Birmingham. Commentary by Peter Purves and Jessica Holm. And Shauna Lowry looks at tha breeds of the future (S) (T) (3733).

8.00 Rebellioni David Dimbleby tells the inside story of white Pihodesia's revolt against the British crown and the long battle to bring full democracy to an independent Zimbabwe (586004).

8.50 Vintner's Tales with Jancis Robinson (R) (S) (406337).

9.00 Red Dwarf VIII. Interstellar sizom. Lister joins the "Canaries", a battlehardened convict army (S) (T) (4733).

9.30 Steptoe and Son. Albert's back gives out (R) (T) (56240).

10.00 Teething Problems. Mother's Day special catching up on the four couples featured in last year's film, You, Me and the Baby (S) (895725).

10.50 If I Ruled the World. The guests are Tony Hawks and Janet Street-Porter (R) (S) (T) (211559).

11.20 Rapa Nui (Kevin Reynolds 1994 US). Lovely looking (and Kevin Costner-produced) fable set on Easter Island, where two warring clan members fall for the same woman. Starring Jason Scott Lee (S) (514153).

2.00 Further Education: Problem ... " Solving 2 (41979). To 4am.

RADIO

Question Time.
2.30 A Stitch in Time.
3.00 News; Classic Serial: The Tin Drum. (R)
4.00 News; Open Book.
4.30 Fine Lines.
5.00 News; File on 4.
5.40 Letters from
Algeria. (R)
5.54 Shipping Forecast.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.15 Pick of the Week.

6.15 Pick of the Week. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 Do the Right Thing.

Human behaviour dissected with wit and wisdom by Jane Thynne

wisdom by Jane Thynne and guests.

8.00 News; Fat Chance. Final episode of Jenny McDade's bittersweet comedy series about a stimming club. 5: Better Wed than Dead'. It is Kelly's wedding day, and the rest of the slimming club raffy round to give her a day she will never forget - though she may want to. With Gareth Corke, Janine Duvitski, Michael Troughton and Anne Reid.

30 Nice Work. Alison

Matchell presents the series that helps you find new work opportunities

and explores the issues

that change and shape

your working life. 9.00 News; On Giant's Shoulders. Sigmund Freud Psychoanalysis

Science or Art? (R)
9.30 Analysis, 'The
Price on Your Head'.
Are you paid what you

and teachers get too little money, while executives take home

too much? Frances Caimcross looks at how

pay rates are determined and asks how far they

match the value of workers to their employers

The Westminster Hour. Andrew Rawnsley pre-sents the political head-

and to society. 10.00 News;

Anne Reid

ITV LWT

6.00 GMTV (86801), 8.00 Diggit (7225820). 9.25 Bugs Burny (4524658), 9.50 The Worst Which (3692563), 10.20 Power Rangers (9704998), 10.45 Oggy and the Cockroaches (9227269). 11.00 Sunday Morning (59998), 12.00 My Favourite Hymns (45646), 12.30 Crosstalk (63530), 100 News; Weather (68995462), 1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby (S) (T) (617/801), 2.00 Murder, She Wrote (5609725).

2.55 Jeremiah Johnson (Sydney Pollack 1972 US). Spectacular wastern with Robert Redford (48184068)

4.55 Big Screen (2083288), 5.25 London Weekend Tonight (3413207). 5.45 Dream Ticket (254424).

6.15 ITV News; Weather (T) (587801).

6.30 Chia's Surprise Surprise Mother's Day Special. She's joined by a host of celebrities for a special Mother's Day edition of the show which rounites family members from all over the world (S) (T) (63443).

7,30 Coronation Street. Nick and Leanne make a big decision. Sharon wonders if she has done the right. thing (S) (T) (627).

8.00 Days like These. The dismal 1970s sifcom continues (S) (T) (1283).

8.30 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Chris Tarrant and more would-be millionaires (T).(1545).

9.00 A Touch of Frost. "One Man's Meat". The excellent Tom Georgeson guest-stars in this week's featurelength story - about the death of an environmental health officer whose dismembered arm is washed up on the shore of the Humber Estuary. David Jason's detective links the murder to a meat factory (S) (T) (6066).

11.00 ITV News; Weather (536646).

11.15 The South Bank Show, On TV dramatist Lucy Gannon, who gave us Soldier, Soldier (S) (T) (789820),

12.15 Still in Bed with McDinner (9868641), 12.50 Film: 1941 (47369047), 3.00 Club@vision (8525979), 3.45 Jonathan Dimbleby (6178028) To 4.30ami.

depth news and the sto-nes that matter from around the world. 9.30 Out This Week.

10.00 Lats Night Curie. 1.00 Up All Night . 5.00 - 6.00 Morning

6.00 Sarah Lucas, 9.00 Classic Romance, 12.00 Across the Threshold with David Mellor, 2.00

Mill David Meior, 2.00
Alan Marin, 4.00
Margaret Howard, 5.00
Countdown Top Ten.
7.00 Smooth Classics at
Seven, 9.00 Sunday

Night at the Opera. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 1.00 Evening Concert. 3.00 • 6.00 Mark

Griffiths.

Virgin Radio
(125, 1197-1260kHz MW
1058MHz PM)
6.00 Richard Allen.
10.00 Danny Baker.
1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00
Janey Lee Grace. 6.45
London Calling with
Janey Lee Grace!AM
Pete and Geoff. 7.30
Pete and Geoff. 10.00
James Merritt. 1.00
Steve Power. 4.30
6.30 Richard Allen.

World Service (198kHz LW) 100 The World Today

1.30 Meridian (Feature). 2.00 The World Today.

2.30 Pick of the World.

3.20 Sports Roundup.
3.30 Global Business.
4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

6.00 My Favourite Year.

6.00 My Favourite Year.
7.00 Sunday Morning
People with Paul Ross
and Helen Gibson.
10.00 Derek Draper and
Peter Hitchens. 12.00
Sunday Sport. 6.00 My
Favourite Year. 7.00
Best of the Week. 8.00
James Whale. 1.00 6.00 Mike Dickin.

Talk Radio

3.00 The World Today

Classic FM (1000-1019MHz FM)

Reports.

Griffiths.

Channel 4

6.35 Dog City (5043153). 7.00 The Magic Roundabout (7435424). 7.05 Animal Alphabet (2242578), 735 Salty's Lighthouse (82917), 7.45 Bug Alerti (81288), 8.15 Saved by the Bell (3564511), 8.40 City Guys (3859443). 9.10 Catdog (1426240), 9.45 Planet Pop (8778882), 10.00 The Waltons (60004), 11.00 Hollyceks (6259153). 12.10 Dawson's Creek (2501772). 1.10 Dishes (7882646), 1.45 Football Italia (25175820), 4.00 What's in it for Me: Brookie Basics (5485608).

4.20 Petticoat Pirates (David MacDonald 1961 UK), Rebellious naval seawomen take over a British warship in this amiable comedy headed by Charlia Drake (16232608).

6.00 Time Team. Tony Robinson and the team travel to Kings Lynn in Norfolk, where they are joined by guests Sandi Toksvig and Hugh Fearniey-Whittingstall to unearth some Norman pottery and a medieval murder victim (T) (79191).

7.00 Escape to River Cottage. With Hugh Feamley-Whittingstall (T) (3882).

7.30 CHOICE The Establishment. Nick Danziger meets the Duke of Westminster. See Documentary of the Day, below (T) (269).

8.00 Cheltenham - Festival of Dreams. A look ahead to the Cheitenham Festival - one of horse recino's most enjoyable events prefered by regular punters to Ascot, Aintree or Epsom (T) (4849).

9.00 Shanghai Vice. Phi Aglands sturring new documentary series exploring Shanghai's murky underworld. This week, how people are getting more fiberated in their attitudes to sex (S) (T) (4085).

10.00 CHOICE Dead Man Walking (Tim Plobbins 1995 US), Powerful drama about a nun who sets out to save the life of a Death Row killer. See Film of the Day, below (T) 110483086).

12.20 Boyz Unlimited (3635202), 12.50 The 11 O'Clock Show (7522738), 1.40 Babylon 5 (4698711), 2.30 Dark Skies (8399689), 3.20 Dweebs (12250660). 3.45 Smart Alek 93822950).

4.05 Three Sisters (Margarethe von Trotta 1990 lt/Fr/Ger). Fanny Ardant, Greta Scacobiland ... Valeria Golino are the Chekhovian siblings (866399). To 5.55am.

Channel 5

6.00 Wildlife SOS (8578240). 6.30 Havakazoo (5082337), 7.00 Dappledown Farm (8950191). 7.30 Mikshakel (2482917). 7.35 Wirnzie's House (4461646), 8.00 My Sunday (2684269), 8.30 Do You Believe In? (2676240). 9.00 Stickin Around (2690820). 9.30 Mikbar (1054462). 10.00 Mirror, Mirror (5006917). 10.30 The Valley Between (2696004), 1L00 USA High (3384849). 11.30 Singled Out (3385578). 12.00 The Mag (59634004), 130 5 News (93653801). 1.20 Frostrup on Sunday (23789882). 1.50 Movie Chart Show (19194559). 2.20 Exclusive (2186733). 3.10 Family Affairs Omnibus (43462065). 5.15 Serious Money (59753153).

5.40 File The Rescue (Ferdinand Fairtax 1988 US). When US navy officers serving in South Korea are captured on a secret mission to North Korea, the men's teenage sons decide to rescue them. Kevin Dillon leads the way (T) (95484917).

7.30 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (2267795).

8.00 Wild Encounters. Wildlife documentary revealing that the Kennedy Space Center is a refuge for more threatened and endangered species than any other place in the USA (R) (S) (T) (8378085).

9.00 Film Mind Games (Jan Egleson 1996 US). No sters, fewer brain-cells thriller, in which tha truth ebout a seemingly perfect couple is exposed when their son starts exhibiting disturbing behaviour. After visiting a family therapist, an affair that the father had years ago is revealed, but will it destroy them? (S) (T) (49074801).

10.40 The Comedy Network. With Dan Evans, Stewart Lee, Dame Sybile, Dave Gorman, Adam Bloom and Jim Tavare (9326511).

11.10 Water Rats (S) (5513356), 12.05 Sports Talk with Steve Scott (1611863). 12.40 Ice Hockey - NHL (S) (65013738). 4.40 Tibs and Fibs (R) (S) (92013221). 5.05 Move On Up (R) (S) (32835573), 5,30 Serious Money (S) (8642825). To 6am. the state of the s

ITV/Regions

Anglia
As LWT except: 12-30 Sunday
Supplement (63530), 2-00 Take it
On (1424), 2-30 Gong Wid
(4612443), 3-10 Murder, She Wrote
(5028240), 3-45 Bugs Burny
(4488608), 4-05 Film: Wildcats
(4328356), 4-05 Film: Wildcats
(4328356), 4-05 Film: America?
Fivers (33688554), 2-55
ClubaVision (8077660), 3-35
Jonathan Dimbleby (6189592), 4-20
Cybernet (73658863), 4-50 ITV
Nightscreen (43921673), 5-00
Coronation Street (93316). Coronation Street (99318).

Central As LWT except: 12.30 Lifetine (21485820), 12.35 Newsweek (1783627), 12.55 Central News (1783627), 12.55 Central News (53634801), 2.00 its Your Shout (5324172), 2.40 Murder, She Wrote (1204172), 3.35 Film: Swing Shift (715559), 5.25 Heart of the Country (9-15627), 5.55 Lifeline (842240), 6.00 Central News (599646), 4.35 Jobs (9102689)

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No. 1

HTV Wales HTV Wates
As LWT except: 12.00 My
Favourite Hymns (3578882), 12.25
Waterfront (3588269), 12.55 Film: The
Return of Sam McCloud (73951462),
4.40 The Front Row (2387882),
5.40 Soccer Sunday (910849),
6.10 HTV News (10288, 12.50
Film: American Flyers ,
2.55 ClubaVision (8077660),
Jonathan Dimbleby (6189592),
Lonathan Dimbleby (6189592),
Nightscreen (43921573), 5.00 Nichtscreen (43921573), 5-00 ronation Street (99318).

HTV West
As HTV Wales except: 12.25.
The Sunday Roast (3588269), 2.00
Hope and Gloris (1434), 2.30
Marder, She Wrote (8452171), 3.25
Firm: The Return of Sam McCloud (14647646), 5.10 Getaways
(7868801), 5.40 West Match Pus

Meridian As LWT except: 12.30 7 Days (1784356). 12.50 Meridian News (21461240). 2.00 Getaways (1434). 2.30 Murder, She Wrote (1434). 3.25 Film: A Letter To Three Wives 3.25 Film; A Letter To Three Wives (22543172), 5.45 Monkey Business (255153), 5.45 Meridian Tonight (254424), 12.50 Film; American Flyers (33688554), 2.55 ChubaVision (8077560), 3.35 Jonathan Dimbleby (5189562), 4.20 Cybernet (73555863), 4.50 TV Nightscreen (33114573), 5.05 Freescreen (8897134).

Freescreen (8987134).

Westcountry
As LWT except: 10.20
Westcountry Update (5292462).
10.50 Small Talk, Big Talk
(8801795). 12.30 Weekend Match
(63530). 2.00 High Road (1424).
2.30 Murder, She Wrote (8452171).
3.25 Film: The Sea Chase
(87398608). 5.30 The Great
Escape (578). 6.00 Goals Extra
(14004). 6.05 Westcountry News
(574337). 12.50 - 5.00 As Angle.

Verifications **Yorkshire**

As LWT except: 12.30 A Brush with Ashley (63530). 2.00 Calendar News (63049066). 2.05 Murder, She Wrote (5857207). 2.55 Firm: Cheaper by the Dozen (6069457), 4.30 Coronetion Street (66559). 4.30 Coronation Speet (9558). 5.30 Calender News (82627). 5.45 Goals on Sunday (254421). 12.50 Cybernet (3070554). 1.25 Flim: Chiote Sarkar* (37448592). 4.35 Jobfinder (1898825).

Tyne Tees As Yorkshire except: 12.30 Newsweek (63530). 2.00 North East News (83049066). 5.30 North East News and Sport (882627). 5.45 Cate Sport (254424).

As Channel 4 except: 12.0. Sept. 12.00 Sept. 12.10 Round (58530397). 12.40 Piell (72286375). 12.55 Gol (25989578). 1.40 Talkabout Welsh (3749066). 2.00 Flermio (48326356). 2.35 Brookside (29455207). 4.00 Escape to River Cottage (67199443). 4.30 Pam Fi Duw? (67195627), **5.00** News (93629988), **5.05** Maniflesto (13076608), **5.35** Pobol y Cwm (47989269), **7.30** Botwm 4 (67196356), **8.00** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (90176337), 8.30 Jori Jones (33566676), 9.05 Fair Chwer (80347482), 10.05 News (12568443), 10.20 Film: Dead Man Wallong (46871288), 12.40 Tony's Fairy Tales (85359912), 1.10 2.10 Shanghai Vice (33188370).

NATURE SHOW OF THE DAY

VIOLENT PLANET (9pm BBC1) Those dependable folk at BBC Bristol have come up with another winner - this time combining that growing genre. bad-weather TV, with wildlife. Tonight's opener looks at how animals cope with rain - from the humble woodlouse (downpours are mostly a problem for insects) to the amazing fire ants of Brazil, who turn their colonies into rafts.

(976-998MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening,
10.00 Mark Gooder,
1.00 Emma B. 3.00 Top
of the Pops. 4.00 The
Official UK Top 40, 7.00
Radio 1's Dance
Anthems with Dave
Pearce. 10.00 Trevor
Netson. 12.00 Cave
Warren. 4.00 - 6.30
Scott Milks.

Radio 2

(88-90,2MHz FM)

7.00 Don Madean 9.05 Steve Wright's Sunday

Love Songs. **11.00**Parkinson's Sunday Supplement. **1.00** Desmond Carrington. **3.00** By

Popular Demand.
Journey into Melody the Robert Farnon Story.
4.00 As Time Goes By.

4.30 Sing Something Simple, 5.00 Pam Ayres 7.00 Hugh Scully, 8.30 Sunday Half Hour, 9.00 Alan Keith, 10.00

Malcom Laycock 1L00 The David Jacobs Collection 12.00 Katrina Leskanich 3.00 - 4.00

6.00 On Air. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday

Morning. 11.00 Artist of the Week

Radio 3 (902-924MHz FM)

LOO The Radio 3

3.00 Spirit of the Age.

4.35 Centurions. 4.30 The Year. 5.45 Sunday Feature:

4.00 100 Great Singers.

William Forsythe.
6.30 Private Passions. In e special spoof edition to celebrate Red Nose Day.
Michael Berkeley talks to

veteran conductor Jimmy

astound listeners with his

tales of opera singers, fellow conductors and his

unorthodox contribution

7.30 Choir Works, Brian

mance of Monteverdis

Disperin (aka comedian

sure to entertain and



sumptuous 'Vespers of the Blessed Virgin' given by the Montaverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists/John Eliot Gardiner.

saromer, 9.15 Sunday Play; Safe Havens. By Nigel Gearing, with James Fleet as Oliver and Selma Alispahic as Eva.

In the spring of 1995, Oliver's latest composi

tion is a success in the Purcel Room, but he

seems uncomfortable with the comments that

with the comments that his music does not appeal to a wider audence. Then ha meets the actress Eva. a refugee from the war in Bosnia, He is immediately attracted to her and

Bosnia. He is immediately attracted to her and asks her to work with him on his new composition inspired by Rike's poem about Orpheus and Eurydice. So begins the allegorical journey in which is life parallels his art. With William Honding and Mariana.

Hootkins and Mariana Dodig. 11.15 World Music.

1L45 British Ballets. 1.00 - 6.00 Through

Radio 4 (924-94,6MHz FM)

6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Something

6.57 Weather. 7.00 News.

Understood. 6.35 The Living World.

7.05 Sunday Papers. 7.10 Sunday. 7.55 Radio 4 Appeal. 8.00 News.

8.05 Sunday Papers. 8.07 Sunday Worship. 8.45 Letter from

Broadcasting House. 10.00 Tha Archers.

†1.15 Desert Island

12.00 News; Bridging

the Gap. 12.30 Just a Minute.

1.00 The World This Weekend

1.30 Counterpoint. 2.00 News; Gardeners'

the Nicht.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

THE ESTABLISHMENT (7:30pm C4) Photojournalist Nick Danziger goes snapping the British establishment, hoping to discover what makes them tick. His mission statement gives the impression that this is going to be an angry series, but we begin with a remarkably sympathetic portrait of the Duke of Westminster, who owns 300 acres of central London and is determined to keep it.

lines of the next week, live from Westminster, Including 10.45 'Joining the Club'. For pro-

grammes exploring the experiences of Northern Ireland MPs at Westminster. 1: The 'SOLP'.

tLOO News; The Learning Curve. How well are we learning to live in our multi-cultival society?

for all creeds and class-

tor all creeds and desses or is there scope for separatist schools? Libby Purves investigates. (R) 11.30 Something Understood. 12.00 News. 12.15 Diartes of Today. 12.30 The Late Story: Everything in This Country Must. 12.48 Shipping Forecast.

Forecast, 1.00 As World Service, 5.30 World News, 5.35 Shipping Forecast, 5.40 Inshore Forecast, 5.45 Prayer for the Day, 5.47 - 6.00 Farming

(198kHz) 12,00 • 12,04 News Headines; Shipping Forecast, 8,00 • 10,00

Radio 4 LW

Open University.

Radio 5 Live

(693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Brief Lives.

6.30 Breakfast with

9.00 SportsWeek, 10.00 Hayes on Sunday. 12.00 What's in a

Name?. 12.30 The Media Show.

1.00 Sunday Sport. Football: commentary on

Division Two at 100, and Middlesbrough v

Burnley v Preston in

Southampton in the Premiership at 400.

6.00 The Scottish

9.00 Dallyn Worldwide. Richard Dallyn with in-

Premier League.
7.00 News Extra.

Andrew Net.

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FILM OF THE DAY

DEAD MAN WALKING (10pm C4) Tim Robbins directed his longtime partner. Susan Sarandon, to an Oscar in his 1995 movie about the rights and wrongs of capital punishment (although Robbins doesn't seem to know - or care to revealexactly where he stands). Sarandon is the gutsy nun who becomes spiritual adviser to an unrepentant multiple killer, Sean Penn, as he sits out Death Row.



SATELLITE & CABLE

11.2

Sky Premier
6.00 Fernnes Fatales
61820; 7.00 Keeping the
Promise (1997) (73886511)
8.43 Cesper: a Spirited
8eginning (1997)
64000462; 10.30 The
Witches (1990) (64939),
12.30 Hollywood Buzz
(79812); 1.00 Keeping the
Promise (1997) (77820),
3.00 Cesper: a Spirited
8eginning (1997) (77820),
5.00 The Witches (1990)
(8653); 7.00 Femily Plan
1997) (81511); 8.00 Film
Night (19784); 9.30 Money
Kings (1998) (462337); 1135
Blood and Wine (1997)
(205530); 1.00 Feest of
1.14 (1995) (1919); 3.00
Strictly Business (1991)
(7027736); 4.25 - 6.00
Hollywood Buzz (194660)
Sky MovleMax Lost World (1960) (48515582)

Holywood Buzz (\$14560).

Sky MovleMax
6.45 That's Right - You're
Wrong (1939) (8674-4207).

8.00 Son of Godzills
(1997) (25298) 10.00
Invisible Dad (1997) (21578).

12.00 Star Tirek V: the FFnes Frontier (1989) (85849).

2.00 That's Right - You're
Wrong (1939) (55559). 4.00
Invisible Dad (1997) (5375).

6.00 Star Tirek V (1989)
(35795). 8.00 Sto-Dome
(1999) (56998). 8.30
Striptesse (1996) (8375).

1.15 Crocodie Dundee
(1989) (56375).

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1.15 Crocodie Dundee
(1987) (1885) (18876).

of Godzils (1967) (465318).

Sky Cinema
11.00 Fighing Seabees
(1944) (3276714) 1.00 Hall
of Farne (1413795), 1.30 No
Time for Love (1943)
(6785009), 3.00 The Leopard (1963) (58663086).

5.45 The Honey Pot (1967)
(47514530), 8.00 Room at
the Top* (1959) (2485153),
10.00 East of Eden (1955)
10.00 East of Eden (1955)
10.00 East of Eden (1955)
13.0 Sewara, My Lovely*
(1952) (25220270), 2.50
Long Day's Journey into
Night* (1962) (19253389).

S.35 Close.

Film Four

FilmFour 6.00 Nefy and Monsieur Amaud (1995) (27752627).

Saling (43801). 9.00 Ford Golf USA (66676). 11.00 Goals on Sunday (22882). 12.00 Rugby Union (84795). 1.30 World Sport (7172). 2.00 Boxing (97608). 3.00 Ford Super Sunday Middlesbrough v Southersplon (671288). 6.00 Scottish Football Abardsen v Celtic (198627). 8.30 Spanish Football (80648). 10.00 Rugby (28627). 11.30 Tour Golf (29356). 1.30 Spanish Football (64592). 3.00 Close. Sky Sports 2 7.45 Love over Goldfish (8779998), 6.00 Passion Fish (1983) (81068397), 1045 Angela (1995) (4168288), 12.40 Twerrly Bucks (1983) (7168283), 1.40 The Gambler (1995) (2242573), 3.45 - 6.00 The Lost World (1987)

(485/5582).
Discovery Channel
4.00 Wings (3950/91).
5.00 Fightline (2768545).
5.30 Coltrands Planes and
Automobiles (102851).
6.00 Mysteries of Magic
(1688549). 7.00 The Superretural (6386789). 7.30
Creatures Fantastic
(1043288). 8.00 Searching
for Lost Worlds (8739443).
9.00 Cleopatras Palece: In
Search of a Legend
(8759207). 10.00 The Real
Cleopatra (872969). 11.00
The Great Egyptians
(861897). 12.00 Discover
Magazine (8330047). 1.00
Justica Fles (5454298).
2.00 Chee
Sky One

Close.

Siky Sports 2
6.00 Watersports World
(#16836) 7.00 Aerobics
(7668527) 7.30 World
Sport (835612, 8.00
Soccer (9108022), 11.00
Cycling (3191443), 11.30
Afriscisc (3192172), 12.00
Footbal League Burnley v
Preston (7053269), 3.00
Cricket West Indies v
Australia (9010004), 5.00
Second Irrings (5084004),
5.30 Cricket West Indies v
Australia (504028), 10.00
Footbal Special (2380646),
11.30 Footbal League
(901356), 12.30 Scottish
Footbal (7255498), 1.30
Rugby League (8522689),
3.00 Close. Justica Pieis (5454/298).
2.00 Close.
Sky One
6.00 Hour of Power
(4582). 7.00 What a Mess
(85337). 7.30 Syber Squad
(977/2). 8.00 Cirson
(82/91). 8.30 Teenage
Alen Fightars (8148/2). 8.00
Simpsons (72/14). 9.30
Garfield (1654/3). 10.00
Dream Team (8335/3).
11.00 Wresting (482/20).
12.00 Kung Fill (29/99).
12.00 Superman (159/17).
2.00 Beverly Hits, 902/10
(764/4). 3.00 Wife (167/2). 5.00
Star Tiek: Voyager (1443).
6.00 The Simpsons (52/7).
7.00 King of the Hit (217/2).
7.30 3rd Rock from the
Sun (5511). 8.00 Earth - Final Conflict (4756). 9.00
The X Fises (54820). 10.00
Miami Uncovered (54207).
11.00 Forever Knight
(94085). 12.00 Tales from
the Crypt (21487). 12.30
LAPD (107/78). 100 Sight-3.00 Close.

Sky Sports 3
10.30 Futures in Sport
(14837004), 11.00 Europeen Tour Golf (93895065)
3.00 Athletes (27:67801)
3.30 World Sport Special
(14000004), 4.00 Snow
Show (14089511), 4.30
Bachierton (25072085),
8.00 Golf USA (21360882),
11.00 The Snow Show
(92316080), 11.30 Athletics
(94944827), 12.00 Close.

Eurosport

the Crypt (24467), 12.30 LAPD (10776), 1.00 Sightings (52950); 2.00 - 7.00 Long Play (5020467).

Sky Sports 1 6.00 Moto-pis (1931). 6.30 Rugby Leagus 95004, 8.00 Aerobics (44530). 8.30 Extreme

(94944827). 12.00 Close Eurosport 7.30 Cross-Country Sking (2424). 8.30 Alpne Sking (8491). 9.30 Bathlon World Cup (14066). 10.30 Bathlon (1913199). 11.55 Alpine Sking Menis Giant Sailom (90991). 12.00 Ski Jumping (9451). 2.00 Equestrianism (15004). 3.00 Cross-Country Sking (9006). 5.00 Snowboard-ing (8511). 6.00 Speed Skating (34288). 7.30 Tennis (324240). 10.30 Sportscentire (454443).

UK Gold
2.00 Mcdernarch
(3045240). 7.55 Blake's
Seven (#93004). 8.50 Or
Who (83789559). 10.40
Dallas (11443207). 12.30
Films To Kill a Mockingbird
(1962) (8840733). 3.00 The
Bit (50391849). 5.25 Ask
the Farmiy (8619207). 6.00
Ballykissangel (96946527).
7.05 Good Life (7826085).
7.45 To the Manor Born
(4294808). 8.25 Only Fools
and Horses (2425356).
9.05 Blackadder Goes
Forth (1137917). 9.40
Blackadder Goes Forth
(8918337). 10.20 Auf
Wiedersehen, Pet
(75782917). 11.25 Whatever
Happened to the Lifesty
Lads? (1548207). 12.05
Ruby Wax Meets.
(585963). 12.45 Pride and
Prejudice (5382699). 1.40
Mrider (18463047). 3.00
7.00 Shopping (\$130028).
Living

10.45 Speed Skating (477608), 11.45 Ski Jump-ing (712269), 12.30 Close,

UK Gold 200 Middlemarch

7.00 Shopping (6130028).

Living
6.00 Tiny and Crew
(7958804). 6.20 10 plus 2
(48929337). 6.40
Greedysaurus (96598977).
6.45 Philhert the Prog
(98597288). 6.50 Polica
Dot Shorts (9857853).
7.00 Parenting (3357820).
7.05 Professor Bubble
(142251). 7.30 Barney and
Friends (5892530). 7.55
Parenting (985259). 7.55
Parenting (985259). 7.55
Parenting (985259). 8.05
Calicu (6378807). 8.05 Bug
Alert (6401808). 8.25 Babeloos (1351085). 8.35 Tiny
and Crew (4068004). 8.50
Parenting (8583733). 9.00
Mrs Greenthumbs
(8270172). 9.30 Cen't
Cook, Won't Cook
(7157358). 10.00 Artimal

Cook, Wont Cook
(757356) 10.00 Animal
Rescue (8672772) 10.30
Brookside (8081443) 12.30
Filtret Enrick Wish
(8071066) 2.30 Special
Sabies (9247085) 3.00
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(2492207) 6.00 Jerry Springer Double BII (66161795) 10.45 Enter tainment Now! (2257609) 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (7421714), 12.00 Close.

6.00 Love Me or Leave Ms (1955) (53297627) 1415 Shither (1973) (74191649). 1415 A Very Private Affair (1952) (45303912). 3.00 Love Me or Leave Me (1955) (17169950). 5.00 Close Paramount

Paramount
Contedy Channel
7.00 Jerny (2714) 7.30
Grace Under Fire (5153)
6.00 Elen (1462) 8.30
Spin City (7269) 8.00
Vic Reeves' Big Night Out (6928), 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? (90207), 10.00 Montly Python Live (26269), 11.30 Jack Dee Live (775288), 12.45
Comedy Store (746486), 1.15 Festival of Fun (743389), 1.45 Cornedy 135 Festival of Fun (743389). 1.45 Cornedy Network (8551370), 2.00 Dr Katz (7715), 2.30 Tibs and Fibs 58950, 3.00 Nightstand (27202), 3.30 About & Cossello (4020a).

Granada Plus 6.00 Jason King (6615240) 7.00 Bootsie and Shudge (4251397) 7.30 That's My Boy (9001694), 8.00 Watching (4202085), 8.30 reaching (2022e), acts
Draima and Greg
(420:356), 9.00 Dempse/
and Makepeace (744844)
10.00 Behind the Velvet
Ropes (7332085), 10.30
Homes with Style
(424820), 1.00 The Return of Sherlock Holmes (3706202), 12.00 Jesus and Wooster (1602733). and Wooster (502733).
1.00 Love and Marriage (5001836). 1.30 Please, Shi (1699269). 2.00 Point (733374). 2.00 Bonston (733374). 2.00 Bonston (733574). 2.00 Bonston (73558). 4.00 The High Chaperral (299806). 5.00 Chaperral Omnibus (77/8202), 7.390
Dharma and Greg
(2943559); 8.00 Point
(9921772), 9.00 Jesves and
Wooster (9979508); 10.00
Cive James Special
(991796), 11.00-As
Granada Men & Molock
(7781040), 2.00 Ciosa

FULL 7-DAY IN AND RADIO LISTINGS APPEAR IN THE INFORMATION

W.F.

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.... CENTR

WAY M

Warren. 1.00 Emma B. 3.00

Radio 1's R 'n' B Chart 5.00

Judge Jules. 7.00 Danny Ram-

pling - Lovegroove Dance Party. 9.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap

Show 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Danc Juli Nite 2.00 The Essential Mic Murk 4.00 - 6.30

6.00 Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew. 10.00 Steve Wright's

Saturday Show. 1.00 Mel and

Sue's Comedy Breakdown, See

Freeman 3.30 Johnnie Walker

Suzi Quatro: Rockin' with Suzi Q.

10.00 Bob Harris 1.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 7.00 Mo Dutta.

Pick of the Day, 130 Heated Rollers, 2,00 Alan

5.30 Paul Gambaccini 7.00

Reading Music. 8.00 Dean

Friedman in Concert. 9.00

Annie Nightingale.

(88-90.2MHz FM)

RADIO 2

RADIO 3

(902-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air.

11.09 Building a Library.

12.3 Private Passions. 1.00 Lunchtime Concert. (R)

3.00 Youth Orchestras of the

5.00 Jazz Record Requests.

6.30 Opera on 3. Musorgsky's

epic historical opera, as arranged by Shostakovich. Moscow, 1689:

splintered factions of every politi-

cal and religious persuasion are

at each other's throats in a power

vacuum that sowed the seeds of the rise of Peter the Great. Paata

Burchuladze, bass (Prince Ivan),

Vladimir Bogachov, tenor (Prince Vasily), Nikolai Putilin, baritone

(Boyar), Chorus and Orchestra of the New York Metropolitan

Opera/Valery Gergiev. Act 1. 72. New York Stories. The sixth

of nine specially commissioned

interval talks for Radio 3 in which

writers who have moved to New

York present portraits of the city.

calls his days as a volunteer in an

British writer James Lasdun re-

East Side homeless shelter

Olifton Forbis, tenor (Andrei).

4.30 Glennie Masterclass

9.00 CD Review.

2.00 Best of 3.

6.00 Jazz Century.

World.

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HE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent 13 March 1999

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WHO

Angila

As LWT except: 12.30 Sub
Supplement (63530). 2.00 Sub
On (1634) 2.30 Going Wild
(5026240) 3.45 Burs Burny
(4466609) 4.05 Film: Whole
(43248356) 6.05 Film: Whole
(574337). 12.5 Film: Model
(574337). 12.5 Film: America
Chubuy/sion (8077660) 2.35
Jonathan Darblety (6866224)
Nghtscroon (43921573) 5.00

Control

Control

Central

As LWT except: 12.00 Sub
Subplement (73556863). 4.50 hy
Control

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As LWT except: 12.30 Sub
Subplement (73556863). 4.50 hy RADIO 1 (975-998MHz FM) 7.00 Mark Goodier. 10.00 Cive

As LWT except: 12.30 Line (21485820). 12.35 Newword (21485820). 12.35 Newword (158634801). 2.00 its You Su (153634801). 2.00 its You Su (15363472). 2.40 Marder, Su W. (15363472). 3.35 Final Sun Su (15659). 5.25 Heart of the (15659). 5.25 Heart of the (1642340). 6.00 Central New (1599646). 4.35 John (1659). HTV Wales

(599646), 4.35 Jobs (Pillar),
HTV Wales
As LWT except: 12.00 W
Feavourite Hymns (357882), 22 W
Mater front (358269), 2.55 M
Mows (53634801), 2.55 Fincia
Return of Sam McCloud (1786),
4.40 The Front Row (2582),
5.40 Soccer Sunday (19089),
5.40 Soccer Sunday (19089),
6.10 HTV News (1928), 12 M
Film: American Fiyers (3886),
6.10 HTV News (1928), 13 M
Konsthan Danbleby (19869),
Cybornet (73555863), 4.50 m
Coronation Street (9938),
HTV West **HTV West** As HTV Wates except as The Sunday Roast (258529 2 Hope and Gloria (1429 2.3 Murder, She Wrote (84520) 14 Film: The Return of 85201 14 Film: The Return of Retains

(146-176-16) 5.40 Getaway (146-176-16) 5.40 West Match As LMT oxcept: 12.20 7 kg
(1784356) 12.50 Mendenke
(21461240) 2.00 Getavan kg
(23.30 Murder, She Wrote Blee
(3.25 Fam. A Letter To Timple
(22543172) 5.45 Menden kg
(25543173) 5.45 Menden kg
(2544314) 12.50 Fim Anero
(2544314) Cultaveron (8077660) 3.38 Jonathan Pimbleby (68998) 6 Cylermot (73556863) 4.50 fi Teuscren (898734)

Westcountry Ma LWT except 10.20 Wastcounty Update (525%) 10.50 Shalf lak, Bg lak elitarithe 12.30 Weekend ke 125/17/20 12:30 Westerd by 10,155/1 2:00 High Road RX 2:30 Mingler She Wrong Roa 3:25 Filth The Sea Cross (\$77/10/15) 5:30 The Great Finding 1/71 5:00 Gook End (Transist) 6:05 Westcounty by 17:41/17 12:50 + 5:00 As App Yorkshire

An LWT except: 12.30 Abs with Arthur #3530t 2.00 Get News (3.004)/066 2.05 Mag Che State reserved 255 for Chesper to the Dozen foliation 4.340 Chesper of Steel 655 5.340 Chesper News

3.30 Calcona Nors
3.45 Carry m Sender (Sete SKY PREMIER
12.50 Carry Sender (Sett State Sta

(8510), 10.00 The Full Mority (897), 177-182). See Pick of the Day. 11.35 MisTrial (1996) (703-26), 1.10 Mol Flanders (1996) (65255646), 3.15 - 6.00 Rough (1995) (51721004).

1.40 *** More (1995) (51721004).

2.00 ** More (1995) (51721004).

2.00 *** More (1995) (51721004).

2.00 *** More (1995) (51721004).

2.00 *** More (1995) (51721004). 4.30 Find Fig. 1
259869, 9.00 Guinevere (1993) (57226).
4.30 Find Fig. 1
5.00 New (1995) 4.00 The Associate (1996) (82394).
4.00 Femmes Fetales (60232) 4.30
Action Heroes (5618232). See Pick of the Day, 2.15 Movie Madic (7880023). 3.00 1.30 Associate (1996) (25597) 9.00 Blood Associate (1989) (9373), 11,00 Broken Eng-11,1 10,20 Fm Blues (1988) (93139), 11,00 Broken Eng-13,1 (1984) (1986) (730690), 12,40 Coupe de Vile (1990) (498733), 2,25 Purple Rain (1984) (513443), 445 - 645 The Way to Dusty

10 00 H 20 D

115 145 1

SKY CINEMA

(8467313) ZSO Macross Plus (9345226). 8.00 Malcolm X (1992) (4665752), 11.20

Again (1955) (2005730).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Fightpath (3063619) 5.00 The
5.00 Fightpath (3063619) 5.00 The
5.00 Fightpath (3063619) 5.00 The
6.00 Fightpath (3063619) 5.00 Fightpath (306

11.00 One Hundred Men and a Girl (1937) (5857771), 12.30 Flesh and Pury (1952) (5268665), 2.00 The Dark Avenger (1955) (2406400), 4.00 No Way Out (1950)

(7163787). 6.00 Chuka (1967) (2493936).

Panther (1995) (77094329), 1.25 W.R. -Mysteries of the Organism (1971)

(1764172). 4.35 - 6.00 Godzila Raids

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

(2648530), 2.50 The Channell Kid (1965)

(783/8/) 6.00 Chuka (1967) (2433936).
8.09 Flying Leathernecks (1961)
(243-186) 10.00 The Hustler (1961)
(85115997) 12.15 Chusing (1980)
(654874) 2.00 The Big Shed (1948)
(42371240) 3.15 Hollywood Hall of Fame
(183/82) 3.45 Tight Shot (1988) IN 19.48 Bold Make 10 (1.00 (1.00 (1.00) 1.00 (1.00 CHA 7.88 125*

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A SALE OF THE SALE

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ASS BBC1 Except: 4.45 Firel Score (5526023) 4.55 Weles on Samiday (1007787) 9.00 Wales Today (556597) 11. Beang - WABA Championship Thaik (123684) 12.45 Jasper Carrott - 3ack to the Front (4535) 1.15 Film: Turnel Vision (891772). 2.50 Joins BBC News 24 (58133733).

SATURDAY RADIO

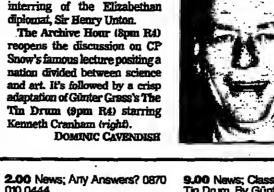
PICK OF THE DAY

MUCH TO listen to, too little time: beginning with a study of the you can dispense painlessly, however, with Mel and Sue's Comedy Breakdown (1pm R2), in which the "cult" TV presenters raid the Beeb's comedy archives. There's a compelling, maudlin

in Three Funerals (2.30pm R4)

complex rituals of mourning,

The Archive Hour (8pm R4) reopens the discussion on CP Snow's famous lecture positing a nation divided between science new series: A History of Grief and art. It's followed by a crisp adaptation of Gimter Grass's The presented by the historian Ruth Tin Drum (9pm R4) starring Richardson, looking at Britain's Kenneth Cranham (right). DOMINIC CAVENDISH



7.40 Khovanshchina, Act 2. 8.50 improving on History. Adrian Mourby looks at the 010 0444 liberties that are taken when turning real events and lives into grand opera. He makes special reference to 'Khovenshchina'. William Tell', 'Mazeppa' and 'Joan

of Arc'. (R) 9.10 Khovanshchina, Act 3. 10.25 Between the Ears. The fifth of six newly commissioned experiments in creative radio. 'Brick Lane'. A journey through the heart of one of the oldest parts of London. Voices of people who live and work on Brick Lane are woven into Bryony Lavery's story, with music by Graeme Miller. With Dillie Keane and Shamsa Omar. 1110 Beethoven. 11.30 Jazz on 3.

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

(924-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Sports Desk 6.10 Open Country. 6.57 Weather. 7.00 Today. 9.00 Home Truths. 10.00 News; Loose Ends. 11.00 News; The Food Programme. 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.00 News; Money Box. 12.30 The Sunday Format. 12.55 Weather 1.00 News. 1.15 Any Questions?

RADIO 4

2.00 News; Arty Answers? 0870 2.30 A History of Grief in Three Funerals. See Pick of the Day. 3.00 News; The Saturday Play: Mrs Miniver. Cecil B De Mille's adaptation of William Wyler's 1942

3.55 Song of 1940. (R) 4.00 News; Weekend Woman's 5.00 Saturday PM. 5.30 Talking Pictures. 5.54 Shipping Forecast.

5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Live from London. 7.00 News; Saturday Review. 7.45 Letters from the Front Line. Dr Frank Ryding works as a medical coordinator with the International Red Cross in some of the world's most troubled regions. In two talks, he describes some of the terrifying and hilarious moments he has experienced while operating under fire. 1: 'Cool Heads and Near Misses' 8.00 News; The Archive Hour: The Two Cultures Debate, 1999 is the 40th anniversary of C P Snow's lecture, 'The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution'. The two cultures were the scientific community and the literary establishment, Panellists Susan Green-field, Lewis Wolpert, Gillian Beer and Simon Jenkins debate the motion: This house believes that

40 years after CP Snow's lecture,

Britain is still a nation of two cul-

tures'. Chairman Melvyn Bragg.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

See Pick of the Day.

9.00 News; Classic Serial: The Tin Drum, By Günter Grass, dramatised by Mike Walker. With Phil Daniels as Oskar and Kenneth Cranham as Matzerath. Germany, 1930. Hitler rises to power. Three-year-old Oskar decides to stop growing and talking, Instead, he plays his tin drum through the dark years of Nazism. With Lesley Manville and Stephen Critchlow. Director Peter Kavanagh (1/2). See Pick of the Day. 10.00 News and Weather. 10.15 The Moral Maze. Michael

Buerk, Janet Daley, Madsen Pirie, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook investigate the moral cuestions behind the week's news. **1L00** News; Crossing Over. Robin Denselow talks to musi-clans who have talken in love with music from another culture. 1: Graham Wiggins, master didgeri-doo player, tells of his experience living and studying the techniques with the aboriginal masters in Australia, then demonstrates the sampling tricks he uses to turn the instrument into the funky bass-line for his band, Dr Didg. 11.30 Fine Lines.

12.00 News. 12.25 Experimental Feature: Four Minutes 33. (R) 12.30 The Late Story: A Letter from Home. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday.

(198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headines: Shipping Forecast. RADIO 5 LIVE

(693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Dirty Tackle. 6.30 Breakfast 9.00 Chiles on Saturday. 11.00 Move It. 11.30 You're Not Singing Any More. 12.00 Sportscall

1.00 Sport on 5. Premiership commentary and reports. 6.06 Six-O-Six. 8.00 Dailyn UK. 9.00 The Treatment. 10.00 Late Night Currie. 100 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas, 8.00 Count-down. 11.00 Masters of Their Art. 12.00 Mike Read, 3.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00 Classic FM at the Movies. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Opera Guide. 10.00 The Classic Quz. 12.00 Midnight Music 2.00 Evening Concert. 4.00 - 6.00 Sunday Start.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.00 Richard Alen. 9.00 Harnet Scott. 12.00 Classic Countdown with Russ Williams, 2.00 Rock and Roll Football, 5.30 Wheels of el. 10.00 Janey Lee Grace.

2.00 - 6.00 Steve Power. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Best on Record 2.00 The World Today

2.30 Agenda. 3.00 The World Today. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Review. 3.45 Letter from America, 4.00 The World Today, 4.30 Omnibus. 5.00 The World Today, 5.30 -6.00 Mapping the World.

TALK RADIO 6.00 OK to Talk. 8.00 Get Your Kit On with Bob Mills. 11.00 It's Round and White - with Tom Watt. 2.00 Saturday Soccer. 5.05 505 with Gary Newborn and Torn Watt. 7.30 Nancy Roberts. 10.00 Dave Barrett. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

Babaloos (1384313). 8.30 Tiny Tales (3169394), 8.35 Tiny and Crew (4162232), 8.50 Parenting (8699961), 9.00 Mrs. Greenthumbs (8203400), 9.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7180684), 10.00 Mau-

ry Povich (9591348). **10.50** Living Room (3827226). **11.40** Rolonda (8906481).

12.30 Films People Wil Talk (1951) (8004394). 2.30 Special Bables

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

<u>Chess</u>

JON SPEELMAN

IN THE excitement over the various splendid recent international events, I've been somewhat neglecting the domestic scene. With Linares over, it's time to catch up and today I'm featuring the First Cambridge University Congress which took place over the weekend of 5-7 February

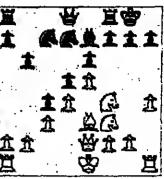
One of the points of this event was to serve as a "training session" for the Varsity match a month later which Cambridge won so convincingly; and indeed the 24-player Open was won with 4.55 by the international Master Bryan Kelly, who neutralised Dharshan Kumaran on top board at that match.

Second place was shared between Jack Rudd (Cambridge University) and Paul McMahnn (Cambridge City). And there were grading prizes won by Natasha Regan, Heather Richards and 13-yearold Lorin D'Costa, who took Kelly's only draw off him in the first round. There was a Major which resulted in a five-way be on 4.5 between Brian Judkins, Lloyd Retallick, David Hambley, G Pierbattisi and John Daugman.

Mr McMahon's result was par icularly noteworthy, for, graded only 160, he won his first four games ncluding the miniature below, before losing to Kelly in the final round.

By an unusual move order, they reached a variation of the French Defence which t imagine Black was unfamiliar with. The most usual line is 5 ... c5 6 drc5 Nc6 7 Bf4 Bxc5 8 Bd3 f6 9 exf6 Nxf6, but Black's choice was also reasonable.

8 ... 0-0, castling into a potential attack, was perhaps unintentionally somewhat provocative, hut matters would have remained unclear if Black had played 11 ... Nc7! intending a quick ... 16 rather than the 10 Bxa6 Nxa6



very bad 11 ...et which took any pressure off the white centre and lost a crucial tempo

After 13 Ng5, not only attacking the king but also preventing ... if. Black was already in dire trouble. Then 13 ... h6 would have lest to 14 Qc2! when if hxg5 15 hxg5 g6 16 Nxg6; or 14 ... Bxg5 15 hxg5 Qxg5 16 Nxd5 Qxg2 17 Ne7+ Kh8 18 0-00 Rfd8 19 Bxh6 gxh6 20 Qd2 e1c.

15 ... Bxg5 opening the h file was obviously suicidal, but if 15 ... ha 16 Nxh7 b3 17 axb3 exb3 18 Od3 Kxh7 tor eg 18 .. a5 19 Nxg61 19 h5 Kz8 20 hxg6 f5 21 Qe2 and mates

Black resigned quite early but he would soon be mated after eg 19 ... Re8 20 Rdh1 Nf8 when the cleanest is 21 Nh5 gxh5 22 R1xh5 Ng6 23 Rxh7 Kf8 24 Qxg6! fqx6 25 Rh8+ Ke? 26 R5h7 mate.

White: Paul McMahon Black: Edmand Player French Defence

1 Nc3 c6	11 Qe2 e4???
2 e4 d5	12 ht Nc7 (see
3 Nf3 Nf6	diagram)
4 e5 Nfd7	13 Ng5! g6
5 d4 Be7	14 0-0-0 b5
6 Be3 b6	15 Qc2 Bxg5
7 Ne2 c5	t6 hxg5 b4
8 c3 0-0!?	17 Rh6 b3
9 Nf4 Ba6	18 axb3 cxb3
10 Bxa6 Nxa6	19 Od3 1-0

Game all; dealer West

BRIDGE

"IT WAS a complete guess!" claimed South after going down in his game call on this deal. North, although inwardly sceptical, did his best to preserve partnership harmony by conceding that it would have been better if he had, more cautiously, left South in a part score.

After three passes South opened Two no-trumps and, hoping to clinch the rubber. North raised to game. West led the ten of spades winning, declarer started on the diamonds. East won and returned a spade, and did so again when he won the next diamond. Next came the two diamond

winners on which East discarded a beart and West a beart and a club. It was not clear to South who held the 13 spade and it seemed an even money chance as to who held the queen of hearts - both defenders had let one heart go. In practice declarer, who had won the last diamond on the table, led a low heart and finessed the jack. West won and cashed the long spade and the defenders still had the ace of clubs

tn come to defeat the contract. Even without a sight of the full deal, would you have done better hearts with West.

#J74 **VK65** 09753 #842 East **+10985 +**632 ♥Q82 ♥9743 **082** QAK6 **+QJ65** #A 109 South *****AKO ♥A J 10 **OQJ104 ♣**₭73

North

than South? The critical point that he had overlooked was that, in make his contract, he had to find East with the ace of clubs

Now, if East held this card, together with the two top diamonds that he had already been proved to huld, he could hardly have the queen of hearts as well or he would surely have opened the bidding. Hence, to have any chance at all, declarer must place the ace of clubs with East and the queen of

has an amusing plot. It centres on 'Travolta's career was down in a group of unemployed Sheffield the doldrums. Then it was steel-workers who form an all-famously rescued when Quentin

PICK OF THE DAY

on extent that it became the most successful British film of all time? Certainly, Peter Cattaneo's movie routines are engagingly staged. performances - notably from troupe-members Robert Carlyle

JUST WHY did The Full Monty (right, who will be appearing as (10pm Sky Premier) grip the the next Bond villain), Tomimagination of the world to such Wilkinson, Mark Addy, Hugo Speer and Paul Rache

For many years after Grease and Saturday Night Fever, John male strip troupe. And the dance Tarantino cast him as a hitman in Pulp Fiction. His CV is charted in But above all, it boasts winning this profile for Action Heroes (1.30pm Sky Moviemax). JAMES RAMPTON

(8712145), 12.00 The Century of Warfare (9383375), 1.00 Wespons of War (1159086), 2.00 Close. SKY ONE Derby Storm vs Manchester Glants 7.00 What a Mess (70665), 7.30 Samurai

Syber Squad (82400). 6.00 Adventures of Sinbad (12023). 9.00 The Simpsons SKY SPORTS 2 Chris Evans (88684), 1L00 Wresting (71348), 12.00 Wresting (53597), 1.00 Superman (35145), 2.00 Americas Dumbest Criminals (3526). 2.30 America's Dumbest Criminals (9110). 3.00 Guilty! (68955), 4.00 Star Treic Deep Spece Nine (43690), 5.00 Star Treic Specia Nata (43030), Subu Star Intel Voyager (7655), 6.00 Xene: Warrior Princess (42461), 7.00 VIP (89836), 8.00 Dating Hell (96684), 9.00 Films: Sky One Special Feature: Coccon (1885) Special Feature: Coccor (1965) g6584870, 11:45 JAG (759023), 12:45 Showbiz Waskly (56004), 12:45 The Commish (790801), 1:45 Fire (796085), 2:45 - 6:00 Long Play (58742882). **SKY SPORTS 3**

SKY SPORTS 1 5.00 Hold the Back Page (30348).
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (42232). 8.00
Aerobics (11415). 8.30 Racing News (10787). 9.00 Bosing - Big Fight
Countdown (3839). 9.30 Australian Rugby League Balmain vs Mebourne (81329), 11.30 Bodrg (86329), 12.00 Soccer Saturday (8279329), 5.30 Football Scrapbook (2086B). 7.00 Besteribel -Unibal Trophy Final Derby Storm vs Man-chester Giants (548684), 9.30 Rugby League (35400), 11.00 Extreme Saling

(97461), 11.30 Spanish Football (58232), 1.30 European Your Golf (19730), 3.00 Inside the Senior PGA Tour (83288), 3.30 6.00 Basketball - Uniball Trophy Final

9.00 Sports Unlimited (5867526), 7.00 Aerobics (3563315), 7.30 Racing News (4018400). 8.00 Soccer AM (63 12.00 World Wide Rugby (8990348) 2.00 Max Power (8808313), 3.00 Cricket West Indies vs Australia (9116232), 5.00 Cycling (5180232), 5.30 Cricket West Indies vs Australia (5148416), 10.00 Bedminton (9676819). 1.00 Rugby Union Update (161714). 2.30 World Wide Rugby (8543172), 4.30 Cycling (3423578), 5.00 6.00 Max Power (2677795). 12.00 Tour Golf (93822110), 4.00 Rugby Union Northampton vs Leicester (15162110). 6.30 European Tour Golf (26564665). 6.00 Ford Golf USA (21393110), **11.00** Cycling (92349394). **11.30** World Sport Special (94977955).

12.00 Close. **EUROSPORT** 7.30 Snowboarding (1710), 8.00 Alpine Sking Women's Night Statom (33684). 8.30 Aloine Sking Men's Statom (5822752). 9.10 Cross-Country Skilno (53540868), 11.00 Alpine Skiing Men's Statom (9001936). 11.45 Blathion World Cup (3792139). 12.30 Biathion World Cup

(9304042), 145 Nordic Combined Skino (6893400), 2.00 Nordic Combined Skiling (95400), 3.00 Alpine Skiling Women's Giant Statom (23923), 4.00 Biathlon World Cup (94348), 5.00 Snowboarding FIS World Cup (5416), 5.30 Speed Stating (99348), 6.30 Rally (2435), 7.00 Ternis ATP Tour (25139), 9.00 Ternis (35139). 11.00 ATP Tennis (55313). 1.00 Close. UK GOLD

7.00 Neighbours (8638139). 9.00 Dellas (33154868). 12.10 EastEnders (15058145). 9.00 Bill (50300597), 5.20 Butterflies (2672787), 6.00 Films: Bless This House (1972) (8763400), 8.00 What a Carry Onl (2455597), 8.35 Herry Enfield and Chums (3713481). 9:15 Thin Blue Line (1140481). 9.55 Red Dwarf V (6042348), 10.35 Monty Pythons Flying Circus (7275023). 11.50 Live at Jongloure (8263955). 11.45 Films: The Wild Goese (1978) (38936787). 2.50 Sight and Sound (113424). 3.00 -7.00 Shopping (8163356). LIVING

6.00 Tiny and Crew (79684232), 6.20 10 plus 2 (48952665), 6.40 Greedysaurus 10 pt.8 2 (48822)(5), 8.40 Creanysauru and the Gang (98694145), 6.45 Phibert the Frog (9869346), 6.50 Polks Dot Shorts (98501481), 7.00 Parenting (3460348), 7.05 Alfred J Kwak (7512077), 7.25 Tiny and Crew '98 (3376955), 7.20 Calliou (6055503), 7.35 Bug Alert (7933435), 7.55 Parenting (9965597). 9.00 Johnson and Friends (9332481). 8.10 Tiny and Crew '98 (1469058). 8.15 Bedtime Stories (8337936). 8-25

(1994) (2535961). **5.00** Entertainment Now! (50446435). **5.10** Roseanne Show Highlights (15793955). **5.40** Through the Keyhole (1601329). **6.10** Michael Cole (1999690), 7.00 Rescue 911 (7079394). 7.30 Beyond Bellef: Fact or Fiction (9364706), **9.00** Ally McBeel (2598435). **9.00** Jerry Springer (66194923), **10.45** Entertainment Now! (2280936), **11.00** Sex Life Down Under (7454042), 12.00 Close 6.00 The Outfit (1973) (33933058). 11.00

Wild Rovers (1971) (63358232), 1.30 Zabriskie Point (1970) (65996443). 3.30 Children of the Damned (1964) (82441375). PARAMOUNT

COMEDY CHANNEL

7.00 Jenny (5226), 7.30 Grace Under Fire (8665), 9.00 Ellen (7874), 8.30 Spin City (3481), 8.00 Jack Dee (96706), 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? (47329), 10.00 Vic Reeves' New Yeer's Night Out (24077). 1100 Film: Eddie Murphy Raw (1987) (96787), 12.30 Comedy Store (81608). 1.00 Festival of Fun (81066), 1.30 The Cornedy Network (15375). 2.00 Dr Katz (12269). 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (24004). 3.00 Nightstand (74530), 3.30 Abbott & stelo (15356). 4.00 Close. **GRANADA PLUS** 9.00 Jeson King (6655868), 7.00 Boots and Snudge (5902085), 7.30 That's My

Boy (5706482), 8.00 Watching (423535), 8.30 No Strings (4234684), 9.00 Mission: Impossible (7544077), 10.00 The Persunders (9306446), 11.00 Men in a Suitcase (4457980), 12.00 Ficilers Three (4238400), 12.30 Emmerdale (1372868). 3.00 Bonanza (2915787). 4.00 The High Chapemal (2821994), 5.00 Hawei Five-O (5560482). **6.00** The Persuaders 1704145), **7.00** Mission: Impossible (9945752), 6,00 The Return of Sherlock Holmes (9954400). 9.00 An Audience with Jasper Carrott (\$94936), 10.00 An Audience with Kenneth Williams (\$944023), 11.00 As Granada Men & Motors until 200am (9981428). 2.00 Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND

G: 51745 1 As 88C1 except: 4.45 Final Score
(5526023) 4.56 Northern reland Results
(979133) 5.15 Final Score (8001868)

BBC1 SCOTT Assets **BBC1 SCOTLAND**

As BBC1 except: 2.55 Purply League (1585428). 4.40 Afternoon Sportscene 5816232, 3.25 Presh Prince of Bel Air 3428139). 5.45 First Prince of Bel A (3428139). 5.45 Final Score (394077). 5.55 Reporting Scotland 5.55 Reporting Scotland (558597) 10.35 Sportscene - Match of the Day (5046961), 11.45 The Lily Savage Show (520654)

BBC1 WALES

ANGLIA

As LIVT except: 12.30 Stepping the
World (10869, 1.05 Angla News and
Weether (4/202787), 2.15 Campus Cops.
(35801232), 2.46 Cartoons (4/50481),
3.00 Film: The Death of the Incredible

Hulk. The trouser-splitting schizophrenic looks for a cure in a dismal TV feature. With Sill Bibby, Lou Fenigno, Elizabeth Gracen. (22568481) 5.05 Anglie News and Sport (4657232). 1.00 Film: Police Academy 4: Chizens on Patrol (795424). 2.40 The Jerry Springer Show (3457608). 3.25 Box Office America. (2222289). 3.55 World Football (21904117). 4.25 CD UK (3445443). 5.20 ITV Nightscreen (3346578). Hulk. The trouser-splitting schizophrenic

CENTRAL GENTHAL.

As LMT encepts 12.30 Premiere (10869, 1.05 Central News and Weather (4202787). 2.15 Film; Mutiny on the Buse. Reg Varney thinks it's no isughing matter when women are signed on as bus drivers. You might well agree. The definity unfuriny shereningers wind up in Windsor Safarl Park. With Stephen Lewis, Bob Grant, 1786503). 3.85 TimeCon Wintsor Salari Faint, Willi Sasphiji Lews Bob Grant, (198503), 3.55 TimeCop (9677435), 5.05 Central News, Weather and Goals Extra (4837232), 10.55 ITV News; Weather (557708), 4.05 Joblinder (367844), 5.00 Spotlight Asia (48646), HTV WALES As LWT excepts 12.30 Movies, Garries and Videos (10868), 1.05 HTV News (41202787), 2.35 Cartoon (40557752), 2.25 Pirate TV (35825868).

2.55 seaQuest DSV (1232955), 3.50 TimeCop (6150961), 5.05 HTV Wales News and Sport (4837232), 1.00 Film: Police Academy 4: Criticens on Patrol (795424), 2.40 The Jerry Springer Show (345769), 3.25 Box Office America (1232269), 3.25 World Football 1904117), 4.25 CD UK (3445443), 5.20 (TV Nightscreen (3346578). HTY WEST

Bissed Out (10888), 2.25 Movies, Games and Videos (35825868), 2.55 Pirate TV (4267482), 3.25 Dinosaurs (7915619).

(4267482) 3.25 Dinosaurs (1950 5.05 HTV West Naws and Sport (4837232) MERIDIAN AS LWT except: 12.30 Pler Pressure (10868). 1.05 Meridian News and Weather (41202787). 2.15 Champions of the Future 500810). 2.45 Carroon (4168400), 3.00 Film: The Death of the Incredible Hulk (22568481). 5.05 Meridian News and (2258481), 5.05 Meridian News and Weather (4837232), 1.00 Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (795424), 2.40 The Jerry Springer Show (2457605), 3.25 Box Office America (129269), 3.55 World Football (2190417), 4.25 CD UK (3445443), 5.20 TV Nightscreen Patrol Computer (1292697)

WESTCOUNTRY As LWT except: 12.30 Movies, Genies and Videos (10868). 1.05

Westcountry News (4202787). 2.15 Film: The Glory Brigade*. American troops unhappy fighting alongside Greeks in cliched Korean war action with Victor Meture, Lee Marvin. (389503). 3.50 seeQuest DSV. Sci-fi series set aboard a space-age deep-sea submarine. (5:50861). 5.05 Westcountry News (4837222). 2.35 The Jerry Springer Show (5386269), 3.25 Box Office America (12282269). 3.55 World Football (21904117), 4.25 CD UK (3445443), 5.20 ITV Nightscreen (3346578). YORKSHIRE

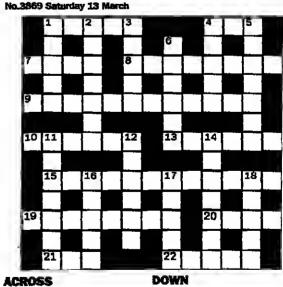
As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaus. Domesticated dinosaus sicom. Earl sels

pomesicate tartest in the property of the soul for a collectable mug. (10868). 1.05 Calendar News and Weather (1202787). 5.05 Calendar News and Weather (6426176). 5.40 Goals Extra TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 1.05 North East News and Weather (4120/2787). 5.05 North East News and Weather (6426176). 5.40 Full Time (6367495).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 10.00
Cynhadiedd y Democratiaid Rhyddirydol (28922708), 12.00 Inside Rugby with Thierry Lecroix (28829685), 1.00 High 5 (57867762), 1.30 Gazzetta Footbell Itelia (7189055), 5.05 Newyddion (92851997), 5.40 Y Chrib Rygbi (75881333), 7.45 Newyddion a Chwarason (90994042), 8.00 Gwelhodded (90109665), 8.30 Dilyn Ddos: Operation Julie, Dramadocumentary about the operation in the documentary about the operation in the mid-70s of the largest LSD factory in the world. (3011400). **9.00** Dan yr Wyneb (68215752). **9.30** The Coroner. page 5/32, 9,30 me comer.

Documentary series. This episode looks at the case of a 35-year-old man hit by a train. A long-buried body which is dug up by workmen. And a state posses the leave the leave of the long terminal page 10 methods a united state of the leave by workmen. And a fatal accident involving a young cyclet raises the issue of organ donorship. (79654400), 10.30 Top Ien - 80s Romantics (8695690), 12.05 John Peets Sounds of the Suburbs (71379269), 12.35 Access All Artes: Frask Out (85390269), 1.05 Surfs Up (68352795), 1.15 4 Later: Exploitica - Nucle Cutles (51631601), 1.45 4 Later: Pop-Up Video (5107882), 2.05 Film: 4 Later: Trader Hornee (55334894), 4.15 The Clangers (51783918), 4.25 Hill Street Blues (59642801), 5.20 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



Newspapers (5) Measure of weight (3) Of the mouth (4) Search for gold etc (8) Vegetable fed to catile (12)

10 Stick (6) 13 Feeling of sickness (6) 15 Office wear (8,4) 19 Accommodation for

troops (8) 20 US state (4) 21 Barrier of carth ete (3) 22 Serving spoon (5)

12 Woman's name (6) 14 Fallacious (7) 16 Be off! (5) 17 Fibre (5) 18 Foolish (5)

Poem (7)

6 Pillar (6)

11 Expert (3.4)

Windproof garment (5)

Part of flower (5)

Streamlined part of

Gemstone (5)

aircraft, e.g. (7)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Fare, 4 Eland (Fairyland), 9 Brave, 10 Blosson, 11 Ordinary, 12 Punt, 13 Bouillabaisse, 17 Prant, 18 Assemble, 21 Examine, 22 Olive, 23 Exert, 24 Even, DOWN; 2 Award, 3 Eternal, 4 Embarrassment, 5 Avow, 6 Discuss, 7 Absorb, 8 Omit, 14 Uraware, 15 Anomone, 16 Eyelet, 17 Prey, 19 Baize, 20 Fine.

TELEVISION REVIEW JASPER REES

ack at the Abbej ess was in

the series movee ds its finish, the se nature of Lady T's is only now bacoming While the Labour nument jostles to remove ting rights of hereditary in the House of Lords, In the House has steatchily id a stick of gelignite the institution of Tacy. Lady Tis the une who doesn't that the particular in the comment. project was abandoned, but this week the Tavistocks were building a golf course. Their third. The Marquess was delighted to loarn that the course will be called The Marquese. The project is being marshalled by his son and heir, Lord Howland, who pool-poobed local objections to the destruction of woodland with the explanation that "the capitalion that oatural londscape has changed aince the loe Age". I have a vialoo of prehistoric man clearing forest to create the first dog-leg par five. At the tee-off, he presumably used a wooden club.

ast week's episode orted on the culling of le of Woburn's magnificent of deer. The deerkeeper ained his decision to tone sexually-inactive old a. "The animal bas bad a life in the park," he said. come to the end of its end there's no betler way to go really. It doesn't aven the bang." Out of the deerkeepers. se that the explosive hos strapped to her back. Is her work. most of her appearances on Country House have been conducted in the buff, apart from the time she went to the Abbey to make a video of the deer heat. She borrowed a pair of antiers from the deer keeper's collection and clamped them to her head "eo t can see what it's like to be a dear". She tried to stalk her way into the hard. "With a bit of luck," she mused, "they might think I'm one of them." At the end of last week she had an aneuryam, and you half-suspected that she had arranged it so as not to be written out of the series. Last night she was back, totally atarkers. It's a mark of how clever!" The other star of Country House is the parish cleak, Wendie Mills. There is nothing this woman wilt not stop at to get coticed on television. She poses nude for the local life class. So most of her appearances on

BBC

7.00 The Munsters (T) (8: (7567077).

7.30 Children's 88C: Firemen Sam (R) (6743619), 7.40 Little Monsiere (S) (9250884), 7.80 The Incredible Hulk (R) (833177), 8.45 Hero Turtiee – the Next Mutation (S) (3693077), 8.35 The Flintstones (R) (S) (2872232), 9.00 Live and Kicking (S) (86691771).

12:10 News| Weather (T) (7380690)

8.30 Big Break. With Jim Davidson. Guest potters are Tony Chappel, John Parrott and Matthew Stevens (8) (T) (787).

7.60 The National Lettery - We've Oct Your Number. Brian Conley hosts the revitalised lottery show (S) (T) (855/45).

E CO

9.05 City Central. Northern plods drama. A new probationer, WPC Judy Byrd, begine her shift with the team. Out of place and nervous, she finds it hard to adjust (S) (T) (438685).

10.20 News| Weather (T) (840752). 9.55 Holldsy Reps. Susan Tully narreles another compliation from the docu-eosp. Debble has some very bad news for the luckless Caroline (S) (T) (614139).

11.45 Jesper Carrott - Back to the Front. The Brummie comedisn, who's obviously baen watching too much Ben Elton, and more of his "back-to-basics" stand-up show (S) (T) (520954). 10,35 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker introduces highlights of the day's Premiership games, with Cheisea vs West Harn United taking tha top billing (S) (T) (5046981).

12:18 [1][1] Tunnel Vielon (Clive Fleury 1994 Aust). A pre-Lism Patey Kensit pleys the dietaff sida of a mixed-sex police duo in this bottom-drawer thriller from Down Under. Hopa she had a nice holiday (S) (304288). Top of the Pope (S) (T) (9210337). To 2.25em

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

THE LAST OF THE HIDING TRISES (8pm C4, 4ght) Film-maker Adrian Cowell has been visiting the Amszonian rainforests of Brazii for the past 30 years and has an invaluable record of the dramatic changes in the area since 1967, when an expedition entered Brazil's largest block of unexplored foreat. Along with the white man came their diseases and pollution, and Claudio Villas Boas, of the Indian Protection Service, was instrumental in setting up an Indian reserve to save these ancient tribespeople from extinction.

2941). **7.25** News; Weather

IB Grandstand (S) (7389961). 12.20 Football Focus (261503). 1.20 Racing from Chapstow (57775077). 1.40 Skiling (56514400). 1.85 Racing from Chepstow (589504023). 2.10 Skiling (40554865). 2.25 Racing from Chepstow (40656346). 2.40 Around the Grounds (686665). 2.50 Rugby League: Castleford vs Satford. Live coverage of the Chistenge Cup quarter-final (kickoff at 3pm) (131416). 3.45 Football Half-Times (5/29787). 3.56 Rugby League: Second-half action from Castleford vs Salford (9586139). 4.46 Final Score (944619).

8.00 Get Your Act Together. Maris Panchoo from Cheshire is pitched against Maidenhead's Jeremy St John in the islest bid for pop stardom (S) (T) (435).

Casualty. Utter chaos in the finst, cliff-hanging splace of the series. The increasingly deeperate Gil is still holding Gsorge and Josh hostage, while the balliffs pounce on the ealmon poschers, with predictably injurious results (S) (T) (915936).

\$.05 Welcome to Lee Vegas 24 Hours in Vegee. Supporting tonights big fim, Mike Waddings documentary follows the lives of a disparate bunch of Vegas chizens, including a kep darcar, a Baptist prescher, a paramadio and a nine-year-old schoolgid (S) (T) (441077).

US). Can sacked screenwriter Nicolay himself to dasth in Vegas, or will hool eave him? See Film of the Day, below Mike Figgis 1985 us Cage drink ker Elisabeth Shue w (S) (T) (149684).

11.55 Weloome to Lea Veges: Vegaa Ceb Contessione: Hidden cameras epy on Las Vegas ceb customere (R) (S) (T) (559936).

BBC2

7.00 Open University: Imegining the Peci 7.30 The Emperor's Gift (39348), 8.00 Week (87503), 9.00 Personal Passions (445145), 8 Saturday (2240684), 10.36 Cyber Art – Sour (8933348), 10.40 See Heari (2813077), 11.21 at Night (3203787), 11.45 Food and Drink (5) 12.15

1.50 IIII The Lee Vegss Story (Robert Stevenson 1952 US). The RKO backlot was the nearest this caper got to the real Les Vegss. It's a murder story sterring Jane Russell, Victor Mature and Vincent Price (5352058).

[7][1] Viva Lee Vegee (George Skiney 1984 US). Elvis Prealey playa a recing driver in this popular vahicle which co-stare Ann-Margret (8878884).

5.56

6.40 Grufts. One Man and His Delast sheep this afternoon (sith ie promised), but the canine-in annual dog show from Birmin, Peter Purves and Shauna Lov

7.15 News and Sport! Weether (T) (595884).
7.30 Correspondent Special. Geraldine Norma investigates the Cathadral of Christ the Saviour sabite to the new Millennium Bullt in orly four years.

thanks to Moscow's powerful mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, the church is due to open in the year 2000. However, my surrounde how much the cathedral oost (S) (132481).

8.15 Cold War. "Surrogates 1987-79". How the superpowers exploited verious nationalist and anti-outral struggles for their own ends, from the Middle East and Africa to Latin Americo (S) (T) (752526).

1985 US) C While You Were Sleeping (Jon Turtelfaub). Cuts, unpretentious ramantic comedy, with sulfock radisting star quality as the Chicago rick who goes to the ald of a handsome sr. Peter Gallegher, when he collapses in a come strain atation. After a mix-up at the hospital, she losed to his family as Gallegher's flanced to he family as Gallegher's flanced and shas been embraced by the add-hair den made

10.55 ITV News; Wasthar; Lottery Result (1) (557706).

11.10 ITM Stolen Heerte (Bill Bennatt 1988 US). Sandra Bullock again, this tima pleying second fiddle to stand-up comedian Denis Leary. Ha plays a thief who steals a Matisse and holes up in a New England town (S) (491884). 1.00 IIIM Po

5how (R) (8097424). To 3.15am.

IIIM Rempage (Phil Karison 1983 US). Big-game trapper Robart Mitchum is hired by a zoo to capture a rare Malaysian big cat – and ensnaree Elsa Martinelli instead in this jungle yern. Also atsrring Jack Hewkins ar a middle-aged Sabu (it was the year he died) (505329).

One Men and His Dog (S) (T) (2197435), 5.05 Space 1996 (T) (9848145).

TOTP 2. Terence Trent D'Arby, Jimmy Nail, Texas and the Fun Boy Three are retrieved from the archives (S) (966329).

8.30 Slind Da Black mati back from

recnate stars. There is impersonating Nelle senior care as M People's lead

nts to Be e Millonaire? The husband of voman who walked off with just a grand (just a sil, that's a measure of how much the show d prize-money expactations) looked like he murdered her last week. That's the fun of this

10.30 Sex and the City. Carrle and Samenths commonogamy. Mirsndab faelings for Skipper intensifie sees him with another woman (T) (773874).

2.20 Queer as Folk (T) (476139). 11.45 John Peel's Sounds of the Suburbs: South Welas (344226). 12.20 TFI Friday (8884862). 1.25 4 Later: Exploitica - Nucle Cutles (T) (8342153). 1.55 4 Later: Pop-Up Video (7189511).

8.00 Sesame Street (R) (69868

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THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent to March 1989

MOARD LIFE HANK

11.30 CD UK 1.00 ITN Weekend (798023) (S) (81690). **12.30** Wennabe (S) (T) (10886). V News; Wasther (T) (41203416). **1.05** London Id Today (T) (41202787). **1.10** On the Ball (T) 32). **1.45** NBA 99 (T) (178329).

.00 T4: Bush Tales (R) (7488752), **7.05** T4: Dig, Oug and Datsy (R) (S) (5644936), **7.20** T4: Animal Alphabet (R) (7479886), **7.30** Pipi Longstocking (S) (T) (24476), **8.00** Transworld Sport (R) (89771), **9.00** Morning Line (S) (79787), **10.00** Ineide Rugby with Thierry Lecrotx (40400), **11.00** Gazzetta Foolbell Italia (R) (T) (37836), **12.00** Boardstupid Goee Skiling (93145), **1.00** High 5 (T) (7882690), **1.36** Diehee (R) (T) (7056138).

L00 Deppledown Farm (R) (8618868), 8.30 Haveks zoo (R) (5015665), 7.00 5 News and Sport (S) (8063619), 7.30 Milkshakel (S) (2588145), 7.35 Wimzle's House (R) (4667874), 6.00 Lasele (R) (S) (2617697), 8.30 Wishbone (R) (S) (2618868), 9.00 Land of the Lost (R) (2703348), 9.30 Kabismi (R) (S) (1150690), 10.00 Loggerheads (R) (5102145), 10.30 The Wondar Years (2792232), 11.00 The Pepsi Chart (R) (S) (7) (3480077), 11.30 Footy Shorte (S) (60792348), 11.45 Beverly Hills, 90210 (R) (S) (7) (7182854), 12.40 Singled Out (R) (S) (81737361), 1.05 Bang Liberty (S) (23808861), 1.30 RAD (46317226), 1.50 5 News (S) (T) (66056394).

Operation Bullshine (Gilbart Gunn 1983 niee is just about discamble in this army fatering Donald Sinden se a firty fleutenant totivities are curbed by the arrival of his wife, Murray, at the base (389503).

3.50 Early Edition (8150961). 4.48 News; Sports Resulte: Weather (T) (2840400). 8.05 London Weekend Tonight (4837232). 5.45 The New Addame Family (S) (9531619).

5.40 Don't Tra Carol Vord compilation (S) (T) (37 ry This at Home! Dsvina McCall (or le It derman? No, It's Davina McCall) presants a on from the last series of the daring stunt show 70346).

Brookaide Omnibus. The weeks Mersey grief in full Jacqui and Lindsey celebrate the opening of the Millennium Club. Ryan shows his darker side, And Mother's Day brings heartache for Namh and Jackle (R) (T) (3900787).

5.55 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (9289145).

Sunast Beech Omnibus. Warning: do not mix with other medication (F) (S) (T) (5/923923).

Sportaweek on 6. Gail McKenna is the sporting blonde at the front of the familiar rag-bag of Argentinian and Dutch soccer, winter sports and motorcycle supercrosa (S) (1733706).

3,30

2,00

te. An earlier-then-normal start for the Cills ng-couples show. Richard and Joanna are white-water rafting (S) (T) (94313).

5.30

Channel 4 News! Weather. Preented by Jon Snow and including all Saturday's sporting news (T) (597).

6.00 Hercutes: the Legendary Journeys. Our wall-defined hero helps King Mides reclaim his kingdom from ruthless gamblers who are robbing his subjects of lihely livelihoods (R) (S) (2282435).

9.00

IIIII 4 Later: Treder Hornes (Tsanusdi 1970 US). A white girl is kidnepped and brought up by a gorills in this vintage piece of Isrzan-Inepired sott porn (8079795).

3.45

4 Leter: The Trip (45153), 4.15 4 Leier: The Clangers (48358846), 4.25 Hill Street Bluee (R) (3452733), 5.16 Pesri (R) (S) (8914286), To 5.40am.

ALMO OO'B

9.25 SMTV program and then video. A Ltve. There's a St Patrick's Day theme to the ime today as Boyzone help out Ant and Dec, is a ansak preview of the new Granberrias if that and Bills, too, Call the kids (S) (757t5328).

2.18 11 Ap

2.30 Channel 4 Racing from Sendown Park and Wolverhampton. Brough Scott and Derek Thompson Introduce equine action from Sandown Park (the 2.55, 3.30, 4.05, and 4.40pm) and Wolverhampton (the 2.40 and 4.25pm) (48376771).

7.00 Right to Reply. Viewere come face to face with the programme-makers. Roger Bolton referees (T) (6394).

6.85

Might Fever. Suggs henterlainmeni show - jo Winkleman, Sara Macin

7.30 ISHIGHE Films of Fire - Tony's Feiry Tales.
Paul Burston reviews New Labour's record on gay rights.
See investigation of the Day, balow (S) (T) (481).

5.00 [PIOIR] The Lest of the Hiding Tribes. First of three wonderful documenteries about the native inclian iribes of Brezil's rainforest. See Documentary of the Day, below (T) (4023).

8.05 Fire Resoue. Philippa Forrester presents dramatic reel-life toolage of Britain's fire and rescue services in action in a programme which coincides with National Fire Safety Week (well, that's their excuse) (R) (5988023).

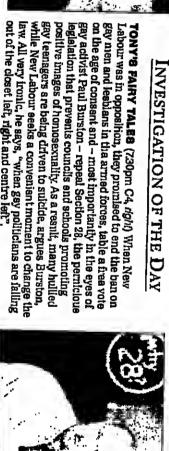
end Sport (S) (T) (3448955)

10.50 IIIM Confasetons of a Window Cleaner (Val Guest 1974 UK). The originst, with Robin Askwith getting several eyefuls as he scrubs London's windows (41408023).

12.30 13117 Trtal By Combat (Kevin Connor 1976 US).

Doneld Pleasence leads a secret society of modern medievel-style knights in this larky adventure co-starring John Mills and Barbara Hershay (1258848). 2.10 **IIIII Stryker** (Cirlo H Santiago 1983 US). Post-spocelyptic soldier of fortune comes to the aid of warrior women (43246627). To 3.40am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GITBERT



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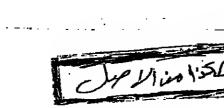
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FILM OF THE DAY

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (10.05am 8BC2, right) BBC2 is making a bit of an event of showing Mike Figgis's Oscerwinning 1895 movie. Three other Vegas-themed movies are dotted around the day's schedules, as is o new documentary on the subject from Mike Wadding. Does the film warrant it? The majority of critics seemed to think so, singling out Nicolas Cage's Academy Award-winning performance for praise. He plays a secked scriptwriter who hits the bourbon es he holes up in the desert gambling lown. Don't expect a Last Tango in Vegus, however – the treatment is ultimately loo sudsy.









YOURMONEY

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MOTHER'S DAY: GREAT GIFTS, WITH A TWIST

SHOPPING, PAGE 10



KID'S STUFF: THE BEST DESIGNS FOR CHILDREN

DESIGN, PAGE 11



PAST MASTER: BENTLEY'S NEW **
8-LITRE RACER **

MOTORING, PAGE 12



The Robin Hood budget

Are you a budget winner or loser? That all depends on personal circumstances. By Nic Cicutti

nyone hrought up on a cinematic diet which included Errol Flynn in his many swashbuckling roles will have gasped in recognition as Gordon Brown stood up in the Commons this week. Here was a Chancellor of the Exchequer suddenly metamorphosed into Robin Hood, robbing the rich to help the poor. At least, that was the impression the Chancellor wanted to convey and, surrounded by his Merry Men (or rather, a baying band of Labour MPs) he gave a good approximation of Errol at his best.

How accurate is this picture? Well, partly depends on where you are in the tax and spend firmament. But it is generally true to say that the higgest gainers out of this Budget will be pensioners, particularly the less well-off, and couples with children.

Although the better-off will not gain so much and, in a few cases, they might even lose out, most of the money will come via tax receipts from falling unemployment and smaller debt interest payments. This means that, while some of Mr Brown's tax sures will impact negatively on the pockets of the middle and upper classes, these will be offset by a combination of tax cuts, including the 10 pence starting rate from 6 April, and the 1p cut in 12 months' time.

But it was the combination both of his delivery and the fact that more vulnerable groups in society were marginally more significant gainers (for a Grange) that led John Whiting, a tax partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountancy firm, to say. "He is being quite clever in the way he disposes of his tax resources. They are clearly being concentrated to help lower-paid people, but without hitting higher income earners too hard. I suppose he is keen to live up to his Robin Hood Chancellor image."

What are the major points of Mr Brown's Budget and how will they affect us? Well, tax and National Insurance are the obvious starting points. According to calculations by pay and employment benefits firm Arthur Andersen, taking both NI and tax into account, a single person earning £5,000 a year will be £14.29 a month better off from April. The net gain remains at roughly that level until £25,000, rising to £22.88 for salaries of ground £35,000 and beyond.



Has Gordon Brown really taken from the rich to give to the poor?

above £35,000. calculate whether they are net gainers or losers is that it depends on a multiplicity of factors. Because the Chancellor has decided to alter a wide variety of tax measures, each case must be taken individually, such month. Mortgage brokers and lenders mostly in successful ones, is a proposal

A married person earning £10,000 as whether you drive a company car agree that the result will be to accela year and whose married couple's tax (ouch), how many children you have allowance is being abolished, will see and of what age (good news), whether a net monthly increase in salary of your income is over £38,500 (bad £7.26, rising to £15.50 on earnings. news, you don't get any children's tax credit). Moreover, the new tax credit The problem for anyone trying to won't apply until April 2001, while the married couple's allowance is abol-

ished from next year. Scrapping mortgage interest relief ever before." will cost anyone with an interest-only home loan of £30,000 or more £17.47 a

erate the current move towards early repayment of home loans.

Roddy Kohn, an independent financial adviser, says: "By removing the last, admittedly small, argument in favour of slower loan repayments, Mr Brown has made it more worthwhile to pay off a mortgage early than

One move that will prove popular with employees in many firms, though

by the Chancellor to offer incentives to people who buy shares in their own company. The new scheme will allow staff to buy up to £1,500 of shares from their pre-tax salary. Therefore, a 22 per cent taxpayer will be able to buy £100 worth of shares for £78. In a move that will satisfy higher-rate taxpayers, this privilege is extended to them at the top rate, meaning that the same shares will only cost them £60. The companies will be allowed to give free shares up to twice the amount of those bought.

When they are cashed in, gains on the shares will be tax-free, if they are kept for 10 years. They will be subject to tax on the salary used to buy them. but this tapers off the longer a share is held, falling to zero after 10 years.

Two other measures may have an even greater financial impact on the lives of millions of savers and borrowers. The first was the announcement by the Chancellor this week that mortgage lenders will face far tougher rules on the way they set out the true cost of their loans. In recent years, lending rates have become all but impossible to understand.

APR, as a mechanism for standardising headline mortgage costs, became virtually useless. From now, lenders will be required to show the APR as a reflection of the true cost of a loan, including initial charges and any other application fees over the full period of the loan. That means any discount or fixed period is seen in the context of the variable rate for the rate is cited, it will be possible to tell the true difference between annual and daily interest calculations.

Just as important is the fact that the Financial Services Authority, the City watchdog, will now be publishing "best-buy" league tables for pension funds, mortgages and other invest-ments. This will increase the pressure on companies to cut the charges they levy on their products, forcing them to deliver decent value to their clients

in many cases for the first time ever. Who knows, one day Robin "Gordon" Hood's legacy may be to have de-livered something that appeared to cost nothing - while benefiting millions of us at the same time.

Nie Cicutti Comment, page 2 Internet Investor, page 3 Brian Tora, page 4 The Budget in Your Pocket.

BARGAIN HUNTER



Property of the week Sweet dreams are made of this

A lock up for the Porsche in London would cost about £28,500, but it's the price being asked for an end of terrace three-bedroom house in Boston, Lincolnshire. It has just had a new damp course installed, has been re-wired, and has gas central heating. There is an 11ft sitting room, dining room and fitted kitchen. The bathroom is downstairs and the third bedroom is reached via the second, but the vendor is offering to pay the 5 per cent deposit, making the price £27,075. Details from Eleys Residential (01205 361687).

ROSALIND RUSSELL

Car of the Week A sexy Italian job

Fiat make sexy cars. Just take a look at the radically styled Fiat Coupe, or the open-topped, though left-hand drive, Fiat Barchetta. Fiat make practical cars too like the brilliant Punto supermini and capable Seicento City car. But in the competitive medium-car sector, the Fiat Marea struggles against the Ford Mondeo and Peugeot 406. Yet the Marea Estate Weekend is distinctive, useful registered example saving almost £8,000 on the new price and with 12 months free insurance from Ryauto in Stourbridge (01384 393231) is worth considering. There is a choice of colours. Cost £9,995

JAMES RUPPERT

Deal of the week Tax-free jiggery-pokery

Holden Meehan, London-based independent financial advisers, open at 9am on Monday. Bear this in mind when considering this bargain. Holden Meehan is one of the few advisers left in the UK which still has access to a Scottish Widows Extra Income & Growth PEP, a five-year fund which guarantees tax-free income of 6 per cent or 45 per cent tax free at the end of the investment period. Clever tax jiggery-pokery means investors can park both their £6,000 general PEP allowance and £3,000 single company PEP, £9,000 in all. You can also transfer your duff PEPs into this fund. Any drawbacks? You trade safety for further growth. And Holden Mcehan only has £200,000 available. Call 0171-692 1700.

NIC CICUTTI

New investment fund finally launched for devout Muslims

Thanks to the emergence of open-ended investment companies, Muslims now have a fund that can invest in accordance with Sharia. By Tony Lyons

have long had a problem when it comes to investment.

They could invest in the ordinary shares of listed companies that they felt complied with the tenets of the Koran But the prohibitions against earning interest on any money invested meant that collective investment schemes, such as unit and investment trusts, were mostly ow of bounds to devout Muslims. According to Hamish Archibald,

of City Financial Managers: "Under the regulations governing unit trusts, a fund manager has to invest to maximise the returns to share-

ORTHODOX MEMBERS of Britain's in the fund has to earn the highest near two million Muslim community rate of interest that is prudently available." Even ethical funds had no appeal as these fell down on this score. This has meant that in order to have a well-diversified portfolio, a Muslim had to be sufficiently wealthy to invest directly in a portfolio of shares rather than spread risk through pooled funds.

However, with the emergence of OEICs (open-ended investment companies), new funds with a company-type structure that are set to replace traditional unit trusts, this specific regulation is removed. This is the key difference that has allowed such a fund, Al-Safa Investment holders. This means that any cash Fund, to be launched, according to

Mr Archibald, whose London-based firm looks after the fund's adminis-

At long last, devout UK Muslims have an authorised fund in which they can invest. Set up as an OEIC, investment management has been delegated to Greig Middleton.

The fund will invest in accordance with Sharia (Islamic religious law). This means it will only invest in a company after the managers decide it meets all the requirements of the faith and that it meets the approval of an independent supervisory board qualified in Sharia.

As well as any interest-earning deposits or stock, there is a long list of other prohibited investments. so that fit the criteria from which we committee, all well-known members

These include anything to do with banking, life assurance, alcobol, gambling, pornography, any company involved with pork or pork products, and any other company that the supervisory board finds unacceptable. Interestingly, unlike ethical funds, Al-Safa could invest in armament manufacturers.

Brian Tora, the head of Greig Middleton's Asset Management arm, who is also a regular columnist in The Independent, will be selecting the portfolio from companies in the FTSE 350.

While there are a lot of companies we can't invest in," says Mr Tora, "there are probably 200 or appointed to the supervisory

can select our shares. We initially want to invest in 25 or so companies, building up to maybe 70 holdings. How popular the fund will be is difficult to judge. "I think that it is a

good start," says Bipen Patel, of Forum Associates, a Bolton-based independent financial adviser. "But selling a fund that invests according to Muslim principles is appealing to a niche market that has no

awareness that such a fund exists. "Much will depend on the supervisory committee's credibility with the community and where they draw the line on investments."

Four members have been

of the Muslim community and all qualified in Sharia.

They are Dr Sharhawy, respected member of the Islamic Cultural Centre in London; Mohamed Rafiq, experienced in both banking and finance; Dr Gamal Manna, a professor of Sharia in Toronto; and Dr Abdul Rahman, an imam at Cairo's Al Azhar University. "It has taken us over three years

to find someone to launch a fund that invests in strict adherence with our religious laws," says Ian Thomson Account after 6 April. of STZ, the London-based Muslim partnership which initiated Al-Safa Investment Fund. "Greig Middleton country's leading private client ates on 01204 433755

management group."

fund is £1,000, or £50 per month. It has an initial charge of 5.3 per cent and an annual charge of 1.75 per cent. As the initial offer period closes on 29 March, units are being created on application, so it can be used for a PEP if applications are received before the end of the financial year. Otherwise it can be included in an Individual Savings

Contacts: Greig Middleton on 0171-655 4000: City Financial Managers was recommended as they are the on 0171-556 8800; Forum Associ-



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PERSONAL FINANCE journalists, in my experience, tend to be among the most blase within our profession. Give us a Budget full of measures designed to help vulnerable groups like the unemployed or the elderly and we will sneer that it was "boring" because it contained no specific proposals either on

tax or investment. By that definition, the Chancellor certainly shut most of us up this week. He simultaneously managed to help key groups in society. such as parents and their children, and pensioners, without hurting the betteroff disproportionately.

Trying to work out exactly how each individual will be affected is difficult. Giving with one hand while taking away with another means that Mr Brown has managed to introduce enough confusion needed to get away with some of the craftier measures.

Take the scrapping of the married couple's allowance, which takes away £190 from one class of taxpayer. This will be done in April next year. But children's tax credit. which aims to replace it, does not come in until a vear after that.

Or the abolition of Miras from next year, which Mr Brown suggested was a move so insignificant as to he almost welcomed by mortgage borrowers and their lenders. For anyone who has seen their mortgage fall in five successive interest rate reductions, the fact that the monthly cost of a mortgage above £30,000 will rise by £17.37 is a mere hagatelle, or so he implied. True - until you consider that the rate reductions followed several rises in the

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preceding 18 months. Moreover, the Chancellor has introduced anomalies which don't make sense. How, for example, can be justify cutting the starting rate of tax to 10 per cent but keep the tax on savings at 20 per cent? Sure, he might argue that after 6 April savers will want to stash their money in a tax-free ISA. Actually, some might have preferred to use their ISA allowance to invest fully in equities. Far-fetched?

Fund Essench Ltd. You sull have time left to qualify for our special fixed times offer too, as long as you buy before 12 noon, March 17th. To give



Mr Brown has made enough confusion to get away with the

craftier measures Maybe: except now they

won't have a choice. As for the proposal to allow employees to invest in shares, it depends on which company you work for. All of us have at some point in our lives, said something along

the lines of "Things would

be so much better if we were

in charge, not them." Sadly, that never seems to happen. Investing in one's own firm places employees at the mercy of their managers' skills (and we know how skilled some of them are), or wider economic factors. Investing in the shares of a single company is a risky

business, tax-free or not. Still, let's not be churlish: overall this is a Budget, albeit in a low-key manner, will help people in need. It may not be redistribution of the most radical variety but it beats the hell out of some Budgets we have seen in the past two decades.

WHAT HAPPENS if the company you dealt with does not belong to any arbitration scheme? This appears to be the case with Swinton Insurance, as we write on page 5. At the time of writing, Swinton is preparing to meet with the client concerned in a hid to resolve his complaint. Whether it does or not is immaterial to me. The important point to note is that here is a company which refuses independent arbitration to its customers and blandly tells pensioners that if they want redress they should sue. Do you really want to give it your husiness?

A wealth of options

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME: WINIFRED RAE AGE: 68 OCCUPATION: RETIRED SCHOOLTEACHER

inifred, who was widowed more than four years ago, lives in a village near Diss, Norfolk, and is a retired schoolteacher. She has five children. Her teacher's pension plus other small pensions total £12,500 gross a

year, and she gets a state pension. With no mortgage and few outgoings, she saves a little each month. Winifred has a share portfolio comprising a dozen stocks, with a

market value of over £62,700, and a PEP portfolio worth over £14,000, with various building society and bank accounts including a Tessa worth around £63,000, plus £15,000 invested in a Pensioner Bond Series 2. Winifred has made a will, in which her entire estate is divided equally between her five children.

Her principal objective is to simplify her affairs, make her funds work harder, remove some of the worry out of her investments and adopt a more holistic approach to the management of her financial affairs.

The adviser

David Holland, managing director of RK Harrison Financial Planning, with offices in the City of London, Bedford, Salisbury, Exeter, Banbury and Scotland (01234 305555).

The advice

Dealing first with the share portfolio, this is pregnant with capital gains tax (CGT), and she has not yet used up her 1998/99 CGT allowance of £6,800. Nearly 36 per cent of the portfolio is represented by BP shares and, whilst they have been a very good performing stock, oil prices are very volatile and, with the current price near to the 12-month peak, now would be a good time to reduce the holding in order to crystallise a gain against ber annual allowance.

We would recommend that she consider disposing of about 650 BP shares, which should crystallise a gain, according to our calculation, of £2,795. Her shares in Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester, which are businesses-centred around mortgages, which will become increasingly competitive and potentially less rewarding, should also be sold. As these



Winifred Rae wants to simplify her array of shares, PEPs and savings as well as make more money with them

value of these shares plus the realised gain from the BP shares should use up most of the 26,800 annual CGT allowance.

She is underweight in financials within her portfolio, and if she wished to huy alternative stock with the sale proceeds, we would recommend NatWest Bank. They have produced good figures, and the shares have a good yield,

The Inheritance Tax nil rate threshold increases from 6 April 1999 to £231,000. Estates valued in excess of this figure attract 40 per cent tax on death, which would give a potential tax liability of over £31,000. This could be reduced by making lifetime gifts or using the annual gift per donor of £3,000.

She has expressed the desire not market which are similar to tradithey only pay out if you make a claim. Some see this as an expensive way

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needs which may not be required. It per cent of the fund to pay annual premeans that, if you remain healthy, you miums of £843.29, which will provide have paid out money and you will get nothing in return.

Scottish Amicable European has a different approach. Theirs is an investment bond with long-term care built in. If you do not need long-term care, the value of the bond can be held under trust, which could be written for the benefit of Winifred's five children. Under such a policy, for a single lump sum investment of £35,000, long-term care cover of £22,920 a year could be provided on the assumption that the cover remains level or, if increasing in line with national average earnings, the

initial cover would be £7,200. The ability of the bond to support the long-term care cover throughout to be a burden on her children in later life is conditional upon the fund or life, should she become unable to funds into which the investment is care for herself. There are a number made achieving the required growth of long-term care products on the rate. For example, at a growth rate of 8.5 per cent after fund charges, the tional insurance policies, in that fund is expected to support cover throughout the life of the insured individual. It is also possible to strip out come from demutualisation, the total to pay for potential long-term care from the bond an income of about 2.5

miums of £843.29, which will provide £30,000 whole of life cover. Winifred has a number of existing

PEPs: Morgan Grenfell, in which she invested £4,000 in 1995/96 and which today has a value of only £4.044 - partly the result of disastrous performance by the Asian Trader Trust. In 1996/97 she invested £4,000 in a Jupiter PEP, split equally between

four of their trusts. The best performing, their European fund, now has a value of £1,322. For 1997/98 Winifred invested £3,000 in Mercury Asset Management

European Privatisation fund, which hasn't done so well, with a current value of £2,743. For this tax year, about £2,600 has been invested in an Invesco PEP in

their European Growth fund; although Invesco's European Growth fund is one of the best in its sector, the value of her PEP now is below £2,400, which shows that with any lump sum investment timing is critical. Winifred has over 257,000 in deposit accounts with Alliance & Leicester, Cheltenham & Gloucester about £10,000 in deposit accounts.

and the Cheisea, with £8,400 within a Norwich & Peterborough Tessa

With current low interest rates, she should consider liberating some of the funds held on deposit: first, to use up her 26,000 PEP allowance for this tax year, by investing £3,400 into the European Growth Trust, Europe representing a reasonable long-term growth investment opportunity.

The Series 2 Pensioner Bond. which ran from September 1994 to November 1995, is giving a 5 percent gross fixed-rate of return for five years, paid monthly, the income paid gross but subject to tax. This represents good value, but I would not recommend the Series 8 Pensioner Bond, which only offers 4.25 per cent. The Budget announcement implied some improvement to Pensioner Bonds and indicated removal of the five-year investment period.

I suggest a with-profit bond with Legal & General for some of becash, with some of the halance invested in Prudential's Egg account, which is giving 6 per cent gross on investments of £1 plus. She only needs

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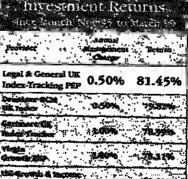
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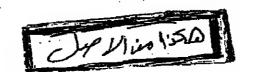
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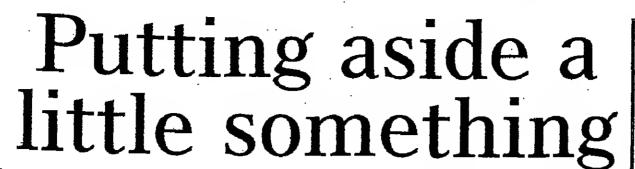
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AFTE OF LOUIS CONTRACTOR



Whether you have a private or a state pension, you still need to top it up to ensure a comfortable retirement. By Andy Couchman

the basic state retirement pension goes up to £66.75 a week for a single person. As the benefit in line with prices. while working people's income generally goes up in line with average earnings, the extra sioners will be enjoying will not go very far. The basic state pension is fast falling behind gen-

In fact, anyone who has only the state pension for income will also get an extra payment to bring their income up to the new Minimum Income Guarantee level. Even so, an extra £7 a week is hardly a fortune.

For the current working generation there are two key sons. One is never to rely on the state for your retirement income. The other is that it is never too early or too late to start planning

For many people, the dream position is to be able to afford to retire at 50, the lowest age generally allowed. The reality is likely to be very different. Unless you already have a pension fund, you and your employer need to be saving at least 10 per cent of your income through a pension, more if you are over 25.

Since annuity rates have fallen sharply since the table was drawn up, the figures represent a minimum rather than an ideal level of funding.

Getting enough income in retirement is very much an exercise in building, and the starting point is your employer. The general rule is that if you have the opportunity to join your employer's pension scheme, do so. Many will pay 1/80 or 1/60 of your final income as pension for each year of service. That means that if you join at 40 and plan to retire at 60, even a good scheme is likely to pay only 20/60 of your final salary as pension, less if you take part of

The good news is that many employer schemes allow you to pay more through what is known as an additional voluntary contribution or AVC. The Revenue's rules allow you to count taxable extras such as company cars and medical insurance as salary too, so the amount you may be able to invest this way can be quite appreciable. You will benefit too, from getting tax relief on every pound you save, regardless of what type of pension scheme you have, and at your highest rate of tax.

An alternative to an AVC is a FSAVC or free standing AVC. This is a separate scheme set up by you, paying money to an surance company. Watch out, though, as such plans can have

If you are not in a company scheme or are self-employed, you can have a personal penup to 17.5 per cent of your your retirement income.

www.scottishwidows.co.uk-



Planning for retirement is becoming ever more important

income if you are under 35, rising to up to 40 per cent of your income if you are between

If you run a company or your company wants to set up a small scheme for you, perhaps with other employees, an executive pension allows much more to be invested, but restricts how much you can take out at retirement.

Pension planning can be extremely complex, especially if you are looking to exploit every loophole to invest as much as possible. For most people, though, it is more a question of save each month.

One tip is to save as much as you can comfortably afford, then top your fund up from any annual bonus, overtime or windfall. Ask yourself too, what your likely spending will be during retirement.

If your spending will be low. your mortgage paid off and you travel little, you might be better off spending more today, comfortable in the knowledge that your pension will still provide enough for you to live on. If your spending will be high then, unless you sell off assets, you should look to save as

much as you can afford. As retirement is increas ingly viewed as an opportunity to do the things you did not have time to do while at work, saving for retirement can mean more than just a good pension. For example, money built up in your PEPs, Tessas and other sion. This enables you to invest savings can all be used to boost

Until recently it made sense to buy an annuity on retirement to generate a guaranteed income, but recent falls in annuity rates, reflecting falling long-term interest rates generally, mean that you may be better off continuing to build up capital for as long as possible.

Your pension is likely to be one of the biggest investments you will make in your lifetime. Getting it right means taking advantage of all the tax loopboles you can, planning early and keeping your investment under review at least every year. Even if you have left it late,

Only if you have actually retired will it really be too late. evaluating all the options when The longer you wait to start, however, the less your pension will be or the more you will have someone aged 59 to save more

than 10 times their salary if they plan to retire at 60. That would require a generous employer, but it shows too that it is never too late to start thinking about retirement planning. Unless you have the neces-

sary detailed knowledge required, use an independent financial adviser to advise you. You may have to pay for the service, but that is likely to be cheaper in the long run than them being paid by commission from your policy provider. Expect to pay around £120 an hour or more and make sure that the basis of payment is 10 WILD Their help can be valuable, too, when it comes to it comes to retiring.

Andy Couchman is publishing to save. The Revenue allows editor of HealthCare Insurance Report'

'Accumulated					
savings as a percentage of salary	25	30	40	50	55
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100%	5.2%	8.4%	17.6%	38.3%	63.2%
200%	0.1%	3.1%	11.7%	30.3%	52.1%
300%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	22.3%	41.0%
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HOW MUCH TO PUT IN YOUR PENSION

SOME OF you may have a sneaking feeling that Gordon Brown was a cyberman all along. Certainly some of the measures announced in the budget will have done nothing to dispel that idea. You can check out the speech, together with all the supporting documentation which the Treasury produces on the Budget 99 web pages. As well as the speech, you can access the Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report and Financial

Statement and Budget Report. The Chancellor has, again, produced a handy leaflet guide to his budget measures. You can order a copy of this by sending your name and address to Freepost, Budget 99. However, the contents of this leaflet are also available on the web so you could save yourself the effort and take a look at it online. It is a more digestible summary of the main points

of the budget, budget-lite if you like. All the Treasury, Inland Revenue, and Customs & Excise press releases detailing the budget proposals are also viewable. Some of the documents are PDF files and you will need to have a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader to view them. Others are in self-expanding compressed file bundles.

In among all the tinkering and tax changes were proposals to allow



INTERNET INVESTOR ROBIN AMLÔT

inesses and individual taxpayers the option of sending tax information. such as VAT and Income Tax Returns, via the Internet. Legislation will be put forward in the Finance Bill for Customs & Excise and the Inland Revenue to develop electronic services that we, as taxpayers, can use as an alternative to the current legal

requirement of paper communication. This should make life easier for the nine million or so of us slogging our annual way through the selfissessment tax returns. The Inland

Revenue will develop a new Internetbased service alongside its existing

The Prime Minister has already set a target for 25 per cent of transactions with the Government to be capable of being done electronically by 2002. The Government has apparently resolved its concerns about security and encryption and the ability to use encrypted digital signatures to authenticate information sent over the Internet. Of course, this is all very well but what if you do not have a computer at home? Well, cyber Chancelier has the answer to that one - offering a tax boost to encourage wider computer use and computer skills as part of a package of measures to increase computer access. So, from the start of the new tax year, 6 April, 1999, employees will be able to loan a computer from their employer without being faced with a tax charge. This means you can have a work supplied computer at home, without a tax bill for the benefit in kind you are getting.

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk-budget99 Inland Revenue www.inlandrevenue.gov uk

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Good Budget for markets

HOW WAS it for you? Were you satisfied? Do you feel better? Did the earth move? I am, of course, talking about the Budget. But then, what else could possibly have been on my mind this week?

My initial reaction to last Tuesday's delivery was to yawn. Not so much a Brown Budget - more a grey one. On reflection, I am beginning to see just how astute the Chancellor has been. Remember, all he is doing is handing back money he took from us a little under two years ago. And handing it back in a way that ensures that nobody is much better off.

But there were some positive aspects to the 1999 Budget - particularly among the measures he did not announce. There was no attempt to make inheritance tax really hite. Pensions were left untroubled on this occasion. Higher earners are still allowed to keep the hulk of their income.

And he did increase the Capital Gains Tax allowance by more than the rate of inflation, giving a modest, but welcome, boost to the managers of segregated portfolios for private investors.

One of the problems that the stockbroking community has had to face in recent years has been the inexorable drift towards collective schemes as the most tax efficient means of looking after your financial assets.

Simply giving people more of an annual tax free Capital Gains Tax allowance does not reverse this trend, but it does make it easier to justify running a portfolio of individual investments where taking a positive approach to utilising this allowance can add value.

Moreover, among the relatively concealed gems contained within the Inland Revenue's press Middleton

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BRIAN TORA

On reflection, I am beginning to see just how astute the Chancellor has been

that stamp duty will be more effectively applied to unit trusts and other open ended investment vehicles. In future it becomes payable on the cancellation of units or shares. The justification for this tidying up of the regime is to create more of a level playing field between trading in shares and other securities and

releases was the news

in unit trusts. In reality it looks like an exit charge for unit trusts to me. This measure was small compensation for the news that the City's regulator is to produce league tables of

investment products ranked in terms of cost. This is one area where index trackers will do very nicely. It is hard to argue against this approach. Much of the published

information is misleading. I read with interest that one fund, run by a highly respectable house, had annual costs attached of nearly 5 per cent. Tackling the boss of this operation, he told me the figures were inaccurate - but that he was winding up the fimd anyway.

Overail I must concede it was not a bad budget for the market - more of a budget for spenders than savers. This is just as well. We have quite enough to worry about when the PEP bonanza comes to an end at Easter.

Brian Tora is head of the asset management division of Greig

for PEPs

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You take out insurance policies in case something goes wrong. But what do you do if what goes wrong is that you never really had an insurance policy in the first place? Paul Slade investigates

IF YOU take out an insurance policy and something goes wrong, it can be of comfort to know that there are various ways of obtaining redress, but unfortunately these are not always easy or affordable.

CAN THE MONEY

At times, a dispute may force the intervention of the Insurance Ombudsman, an industry-funded but independent scheme. If you have a complaint about a broker, it can be made to the Insurance Brokers Registration Council (IBRC), a watchdog which currently regulates its members' conduct - though possibly not for much longer

But what happens if the insurer or the intermediary selling the policy are not part of any complaints system? One pensioner's dispute with Swinton Group, the nationwide firm of intermediaries, has shown how easily some firms can dodge the industry's arbitration.

Mr Maling discovered last July that the Sheffield house he thought he had insured through Swinton was not covered after all. This left

him with repair bills of £2,500 and no insurance to pay them. The row revolves round a December 1997 letter from Swinton asking Mr Maling to contact the company immediately. Mr Maling never received that letter and so never discovered his policy had been cancelled.

Because Swinton had accepted and retained his premium payment. Mr Maling had no reason to think the insurance had not remained in force.

Mr Maling believes Swinton should have made more effort to tell him of the true situation, and has been trying to get some redress from the company ever since (see box). Despite admitting to a string of "unsatisfactory features" in how the case was handled, Swinton so far has offered Mr Maling no more than an er gratia payment of £100 which he would get only if he agreed to drop his complaint.

This is altogether wrong," Mr Maling insists, "Swinton should be stopped from being able to do this

None of the insurance industry's three most established arbitration procedures seem able to help resolve this dispute, because Swinton refuses to join the voluntary bodies which run them. These schemes aim to provide a cheap and impartial ruling in cases which insurers and customers cannot settle between themselves.

But Swinton has chosen not to join either the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau (10B) or the back-up Personal Insurance Arbitration Service. Swinton is not a registered insurance broker, which rules out the IBRC scheme as well. The IOB scheme has been open to intermediaries like Swinton since last year. But few have joined so far, and the ombudsman is powerless against those who choose to stay out.

10B spokesman Michael Loverove savs: "Swinton are not memrs of the bureau, and not subject to the ombudsman's jurisdiction. Can the ombudsman make Swinton pay for a failure? No, he can't."

Swinton director June Price says 10B membership is "something we are looking at for the future". Neither the Association of British Insurers nor the Financial Services Authority, which covers the

industry, seem able to help Mr Maling either. Swinton is subject to the ABI code of practice. But ABI spokeswoman Suzanne Moore says the code would probably not apply in

this case because, strictly speaking,

Mr Maling's complaint is not a matter of sales practice. An FSA spokesman says: "If you're not going to call yourself a broker, but operate as an intermediary, that is not regulated. It is not

a responsibility of the FSA. If Mr Maling wants to take his complaint any further. Mr Price says, he will have to go to court.

"We have professional indemnity insurance for any professional negligence, so the normal recourse would be via a solicitor," she says. But Mr Maling says this is an option he cannot afford.



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WHAT WENT WRONG?

John Maling's problems with Swinton started in July 1998, when he rang the company and asked about renewing the buildings cover on his Sheffield house.

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Much to his surprise, Swinton told him cover on the house had been cancelled months earlier.

Maling had, by then, moved from Sheffield to Laton, and had rented out the house to tenants referred to him by **Sheffield Council's**

housing department. He had given Swinton a cheque to pay for the insurance in July 1997. What he did not know was that Norman Insurance the company whose policy he he thought he held had since decided not to cover the bouse.

Swinton says it wrote to Mr Maling's Luton address on 30 December. 1997, sending the letter by recorded delivery. But Swinton cannot produce a recorded delivery slip to

By December 1997, Mr Maling had moved again, arranging for the Post Office to forward letters to his third address. But he never received Swinton's letter. The Swinton on 9 January, for". Swinton made no Mr Maling's July 1998

phone call. When Mr Maling went to check on the Sheffield house, be found the tenants had vanished, leaving him with repairs estimated at £2,500 and no insurance

Had be known the Norman Insurance policy was invalid. Mr Maling claims, he could have bought-insurance

elsewhere. David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and an old friend of Mr Maling's. took up the issue.

On 5 October, 1998, Swinton's John Morley wrote to Mr Blankett admitting: "There are some unsatisfactory features: (a) it is difficult to see why Norman didn't simply reject the risk as soon as it was aware of potential DSS referrals: (b) we have destroyed the evidence of the recorded delivery letter, (c) we did not give notice of cancellation and (d) we

premium." Swinton has now refunded Mr Maling's premium, but has included no interest to cover the 12 months while it held the cheque. Following The Independent's enquiries, Swinton and Norman Insurance have offered to arrange a face-to-face meeting with Mr Maling to discuss his case

Source, Micropul-LGM im an idler to bid basis with the pres present to imeged from 01.11 95 Hareal & General's PEP bunch date (tri (4 03.9) Threed on all PEPs tital track the same index with all charges included. Hource, Micropal USIM on an offer to bul Lase. with gross income remested from III II 15 (Lessi & General's PEP Jaunch daiet to 013/3/99 ITP returns take into account PEI' changes. Past performance is not necessarile a guide to future parti emanace. Friend 14t.01.99 tax credits on L'K disalend destributions will only be able to be reclaimed by PEPs at a their capital and meume rajnes ural, to quy u awell as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All companyors of crest apply to PEPs investing whelly in unit trusts. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 01/13/94 The Generament have tuli beanounts contributions can only be

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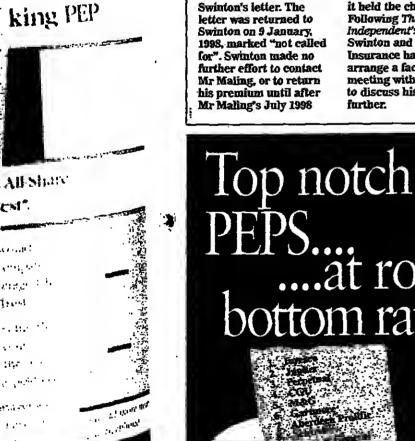
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MILLIONS OF Britain's tax- mately be positive or negapayers, mortgage borrowers, married couples, holidaymakers, savers and pensioners will be affected by this week's Bndget.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, has delivered one of the most complicated Budgets in recent years, making it extremely difficult to work out whether the overall effect on each individual will ulti-

tive. Even some of the beneficial changes have a sting in their tale. For example, the 10 pence starting rate of tax for the first £1,500 of taxable income is offset by the fact that Mr Brown is raising from 20 to 23 per cent (22 per cent in 12 months' time) the rate of tax that would normally have been levied on the next £2,800-worth of income.

A similar picture emerges from a range of other measures announced this week. For the benefit of our readers, we have broken down and laid out the major changes in the

Budget on the next two pages. Given the complexity and detail of some of these changes, however, it is possible that some aspects of the **Budget critical to your needs** may not be immediately ap-

parent. It may be necessary for you to consult an independent financial adviser or an accountant.

This will, at first sight, seem like an unnecessary and time-consuming experience. But given some of the small print emerging from this Budget, it could well be

NIC CICUTTI

SHARE SAVE SCHEMES

TO ENCOURAGE more UK employees to back their set at the outset. employers, the Chancellor plans to unite the existing now disappeared, but companies can still oopular Save As You Earn Share Save scheme and companies' Profit Sharing profit-sharing schemes schemes to form an which involves giving alternative tax shelter. shares to the workforce.

SAYE schemes, which are aiready offered by 75 per cent of Britain's biggest companies, allow employees to save regularly, and then use the proceeds to buy

shares at a discounted price

Profit-related pay has incentivise staff through tax-free provided they are

held for three years. Under the Government's proposals, employees could use £1.500 from pre-taxed income to buy sbares in

their company. In effect, this would cost a basic rate taxpayer only £1,155, and a

higher rate taxpayer £900. Any gains arising on the shares while they are held in the scheme will be taxfree after three years. When they are cashed in, they will be subject to tax on the salary used to buy them. But this will taper off to zero after 10 years.

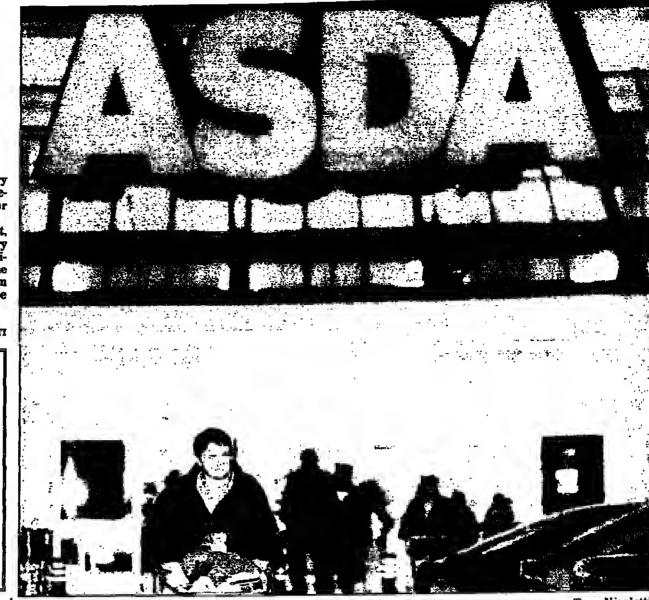
Employers will be able match whatever the

employee saves with twice that amount in free shares.

PricewaterhouseCoopers spokesman, Sandy Pepper. savs: "You could argue this is a risky strategy, putting all your eggs in one basket; if the firm goes bust you lose your job and your savings and everything.

"But the reality is that employees do very well out of these schemes, and the risks are low."

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Take on the taxing questions

Here's how to work out the changes to income tax and National Insurance

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1 Year	1
2 Years	1 .
3 Years	1
4 Years	11
5 Years	1
6 Years	1
7 Years	1
8 Years	1
9 Years	1
10 Years	1

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April. The new rate will apply on the first £1,500 slice of taxable income above the personal allowance of £4,335.

Performance Period	Cumulative Quartile Ranking [†]
1 Year	1
2 Years	1 .
3 Years	1.
4 Years	11
5 Years	11
6 Years	1
7 Years	1
8 Years	1.
9 Years	
10 Years	1

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Meanwhile, some lenders have quietly welcomed the demise of Miras, already eroded to 10 per cent. They will now

state top-up pensions scheme, Serps, will see their National Insurance contributions both harmonised with the tax regime and raised in two tranches. The net effect, according to

the Government would reduce the next tax level from 23 per cent to 22 per cent in April of next year The 10 pence rate will re-

THE CHANCELLOR, Gordon

Brown, confirmed the intro-

duction of a 10 pence starting

rate of tax to take effect from 6

place the former 20 per cent rate, which is being scrapped. The 20 per cent rate covered the first £4.300 of taxable income, after allowances. However, scrapping the 20 per cent rate means that the 23 per cent tax slice has been extended downwards.

The higher tax bracket of 40 per cent will now begin to apply to earnings above £28,000, allowances after, or £32,335 before the single person's allowance.

THE ABOLITION of

mortgage interest tax

2000 will cost £17,37 a

with borrowings of

But some experts

past six months.

predicted it would go

largely unnoticed at a

time when interest rates

have fallen several times.

by up to 2 per cent, in the

Brokers argued this

week that now the final

are to be removed, it

would strengthen the

tax breaks on mortgages

month for homeowners

The cut is equivalent to a 0.35 per cent interest

hike for a typical borrower.

relief (Miras) from April

MIRAS/STAMP DUTY

are not contracted out of the

Mr Brown also pledged that Arthur Andersen, chartered accountants, will be that, taking both NI contributions and tax into account, a single person earning £5,000 a year will be £14.29 better off from April. The net gain remains at roughly that level until £25,000, rising to £22.83 better off on salaries above £35,000 and beyond.

> A married person earning £10,000 a year, and whose married couple's tax allowance is being abolished, will see a net monthly increase in salary of £7.26. rising to £15.50 ings above £35,000.

The changes to National Insurance are aimed at harmon-At the same time, the Chan-individuals are taxed at the cellor announced that from bottom end. At present, em-

be freer to redesign the

traditional 25-year loan,

credit more flexibly with

Less welcome is the

which will hit residents of

the homeloan package.

increase in stamp duty,

throughout Britain, and

will causing hardship to

those living in London and

the south-east of England.

From next Tuesday,

homes above £250,000 will

incur 2.5 per cent in stamp

duty, 0.5 per cent higher

the rate for those over £500,000 rises to 3.5 per

cent. If you have already

exchanged contracts, the

old rates will apply. Property below 260,000

will continue to be free of

stamp fees on purchase.

1 per cent will be levied.

Up to £250,000, the current

TERESA HUNTER

than at present. Similarly,

bousing hot spots

mixing other kinds of

2 per cent on the first £64 of their weekly income as soon as it reaches that level. This was described in the Budget as; "A tax on work, the entry fee every employee has to pay simply to

be part of the NI system."

levels rise to 10 per cent on incomes between £64 and £485 a week. Mr Brown is proposing to alter the system from this April, by raising the weekly level on which NI is payable to £66. Now, there will be no 2 per cent payable on earnings up to and including that amount. The upper limit on which NI

is payable will rise to £500 a week. In April 2000, the earnings point above which employees pay NI contributions WILL DE Paised by £21 der week over two years - from £66 in be raised to £535, and then to April 1999 to £76 in April 2000 and then to £87 – the level of the single person's tax allowance - of NI payable from £21.30 to in April 2001.

At the same time, the upper

ployees face paying a NI bill of earnings limit, the point nbove which employees stop paying NI contributions, will be raised April 2000, and then by £55 per week from April 2001, to £575 per week

For someone earning more Thereafter, NI contribution than £575 a week, the weekly MI burden will rise from £4328 at present to £48 a week in April 2001, or about £20 a month.

For the self-employed, flatrate NI contributions of £6.55 per week, paid once earnings exceed £72.50, will be cut to £2 a week. However, NI will be raised from 6 per cent on profits between £145 and £500 per week to 7 per cent.

At the same time, the lower earnings limit on which NI is payable will be cut to £85 per week, and the upper limit will £575 by 2001. The total effect will be to raise the maximum rate

MARRIED PERSON'S TAX Monthly tax and Ni 1999-00 15,000 275.41 268.15 981.85 25,000 550.41 543.15 1,540.19 7.26 40.000 963.06 947.57 15.49 100,000 2,963.06 2,947.57 5,385,77 15.49 PERSON'S TAX

New net monthly salary 15,000 299.16 284.56 965.44 14.60 25,000 574.16 559.56 1,523.77 14.60 40.000 986.81 963.98 2.369.35 22.83 2,963.98

PENSIONS

THE AVERAGE pensioner household will gain £240 a year from this Budget. More than 200,000 pensioners will be taken off income tax through a boost to tax allowances for the over-65s. For people aged 65 to 74, the additional allowance rises by £310 a year, to £5,720. Pensioners over 75 will have their

allowance raised by a further £160, to £5,980 before tax. Pensionera are also exempted from the abolition of the married couple's allowance.

The Chancellor has also boosted the level of the minimum income guarantee introduced in the last Budget, in line with earnings rather than prices. Single pensioners will be guaranteed £75 a week and couples £116.60, this year. Next year, the guarantee will rise to

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thing \$575 a work, the weekly NI hurden will rise from 14128 at inchiest to E18 a week in April 2001, or about 420 a month.

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ational Insurance

which employees stop paying MI contributions, will be raised by £30 per week to £555 from April 2000, and then by £55 per week from April 2001, to 5575 For someone carning more

For the self employed fat-

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SAVINGS

PLANS TO continue taxing savings at 20 per cent. despite the introduction of the 10 pence band, looks certain to spark a row. The Inland Revenue has confirmed that deposits in banks and building societies will face a 20 per cent savings tax, even it savers only pay 10 per cent tax on

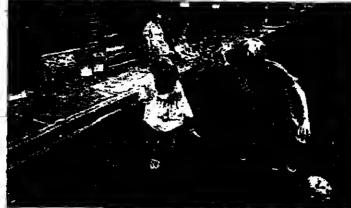
Non-taxpayers can continue to receive interest gross, but 10 per cent payers the extra 10 per cent.

Adrian Coles, director neral at the Building Societies Association, says: The people who will be most affected by this will be those on low incomes and with only modest savings, mainly pensioners. We intend to raise the issue with the Treasury.

The Government's argument is that the 10p tax rate was introduced as an incentive to people in work, but why should pensioners who have worked all their lives, be penalised."

TERESA HUNTER

TAX ON CHILDREN'S SAVINGS



A tax loophole on children's savings is gone

PARENTS WHO have been using a loophole which allowed them to avoid paying tax when they trans-ferred money to their children will no longer be able to do so following

this week's Budget.
Up to now, if a parent opened a savings account in a child's name, the account was allowed to earn up to £100 interest a year before it became subject to tax. However, many thousands of parents have used trust law to avoid this tax law. They have set up a "bare" or accumulation trust, which meant the income in the trust became the child's. In

turn, this allowed the child's own tax allowance to be used, saving a parent up to £1,678 a year in tax. Many fund management firms.

such as investment trusts, have tended to incorporate bare trusts within the children's savings schemes they offered to the public, costing the Inland Revenue up to 650m a year in tax. From this week, new bare trust

arrangements, or money added to existing trusts, will no longer be sheltered from income tax, unless the in-

INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX

INSURANCE PREMIUM tax (IPT) will rise by 1 per cent to 5 per cent in July adding, £3 to the cost of a typical motor contract of £315 and a similar amount on an average home insurance policy of £285.

The Chancellor said this week that the vast mainfile of insurance products would

continue to be exempt from IPT. that the tax, which is levied on motor, property, travel and extended warranty policies. would affect every household.

One study claimed the increase would mean an extra £16:5 a year in tax.

IPT was introduced in 1994 and pegged at 2.5 per cent. Last year, the Government raised IPT for travel insurance to 17.3

A spokenman for Direct Line said: "Unlike VAT, insurance premium tax is not recoverable and, as we have consistently maintained in the past, it is unrealistic to suggest that insurers can absorb the tax TERESA HUNTER

MORTGAGE AND CREDIT

MORTGAGE AND credit lenders will be forced to provide clear comparable information on the products they offer. The proposals include measures to specify the way in which Annual Percentage Rates (APRs) for low-start and discount mortgages are calculated.

A single formula for calculating APRs across the European Union will have to be implemented, allowing borrowers to work out how

relative to those in any other European country The Financial Services Authority will be given gowing to take action against lenderunder the Unfair Terms in

Consumer Contracts Regulations It will not be possible for such regulations to be introduced retrispectively The DTI is, however programs: to publish preparals on all overthe courts to re-open "extertionate credit hargains"

INHERITANCE/CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Company car drivers will be hit hard

vehicles are less of a perk than they

once might have been. This week,

the Chancellor told them that they

Mr Brown announced that

while the tax charge, at 35 per cent of the list price of a company car

will continue to reduce depending

on the number of miles driven, it

will not reduce as sharply. Henceforth, it will fall to 25 per

cent if the car is driven between

2,500 miles and 17,999 miles a

year for business travel and down

stand to pay even more.

over the past few years that their above 18,000.



Inheritance tax has not changedy much Centre Press

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EACH YEAR, reports of the widespread reform of inheritance and capital gains tax prove much exaggerated and this year was no exception - if anything, the reverse.

From April, estates worth inheritance tax, after the threshold is lifted by £8,000.

Similarly the ceiling on capital gains tax (CGT) is lifted from £6,800 to £7,100, and in future it will be levied at either 20 per cent or 40 per cent. Following the introduction of a new 10 per cent starting rate, the 23 per cent rate is to be

The Chancellor of the Exhowever, put in place measures to prevent wealthy peo-

ple from passing substantial property to the next generation, following the House of Lords ruling in favour of Lady To protect the family es-

tate from inheritance tax, she less than £231,000 will escape devised a complex deal which involved giving her property to her solicitor, while placing the freehold in a trust for her children, and obtaining a lease for

The legal loophole exploited by these arrangements has now been closed. Less imaginative attempts to give away a family home while continuing to live there, would always have fallen foul of the Inland chequer, Gordon Brown, has Revenue, unless the former owner paid a commercial rent. TERESA HUNTER

Source: Micropal LGIM on an offer to bid basis based on all PEP charges with gross income reinvested from 01.10.96 to 01.03.99. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to

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The biggest hit is on petrol duty, up 6 per cent above inflation,

of a gallon of unleaded fuel above

£3 for the first time. Unleaded fuel

will rise faster, by 4.25p to 74.4p,

while diesel will jump 6.14p to 71p. This was combined with mea-

sures aimed at encouraging the use of smaller cars. Vehicle excise

duty will drop from £150 to £100 for

cars with engines smaller than

1,100 cc, while rising £5 for others.

3.79p a litre, pushing the price

finire performance. From 06.04.99 usx credits on UK dividend distributions will only be able to be reclaimed by PEPs at a reduced rate of 10%. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you

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currently applicable and

change. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. The exchange rate variations may cause the value of overseas investmens to increase or decrease. Pull written details are available on

All statements are correct

as at 01.03.99. The Govern

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Distribution bonds are less volatile than other forms of managed savings, yet they can deliver excellent returns. By Tony Lyons

FED UP with the poor returns now available from deposit accounts with the high street banks and building societies but disinclined to invest directly in equities? Don't worry. There is s means of savings that provides a relatively low risk halfway house. Called distribution bonds, these are single premium life assurance bonds, rather like with profits bonds, but where the investment is split into units.

Unlike with profits bonds where the annual bonus, the profit element, is decided by a professional actuary based on the performance of the fund over the past year, the price of the units in a distribution bond can move on a daily basis in line with the performance of the underlying securities. These types of bonds are less volatile than other forms of

managed investments. Sun Life was the first to issue distribution bonds almost 20 years ago. "We looked at the needs of investors," says Mark Stirrup, of Sun Life. "They told us that they wanted an investment that would pay a little more than they could get with a building society, an income that would increase over time and one that offered the

prospect of capital growth." The guaranteed bonds available at the time offered either a fixed income or a fixed rate of capital growth. "While there were unit trusts, these were pure equity investments," adds Stirrup. "We wanted to offer something less volatile. When we launched the Sun Life Distribution Fund, there had never been anything like it." Sun Life, which now manages assets of £2.78bn, had the

field to itself for some 15 years before other life companies began to offer similar funds. Today, there are nearly 20 different distribution honds available. Sun Life's hond fund is the largest, followed by Legal & General's and then the Prudential's bond.

The bonds invest in a similar vay to the main life funds. In the case of Sun Life, it is 40 per cent invested in gilts and bonds, 40 per cent in equities and 20 per cent in convertibles. Quite a large proportion of the gilts are index-linked, for their safety-first, guaranteed return.

Over the past five years. anyone who invested £10,000 in this bond would have enjoyed an income of £6,952 and their capital would now be worth just under £16,000. Compare this with a higher rate building society account, where it would have generated an income of around £6,160 over the period, but the capital would not have grown at all.

With Legal & General, the £500m distribution bond fund has 82.5 per cent of its assets split between equities and fixed interest stock, another 12.5 per cent invest in property, while the rest is held in cash. Since its launch nearly five years ago, it has increased the income per unit every year from 2.5p in its first year to 3.08p last December. Since its launch, the price of it units has risen nearly

Investors can cash in up to 5 per cent of their holding in a

with payments on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annual basis. Just like with profits bonds, this is treated as a return of capital.

"For higher rate taxpayers, distribution bonds can be a useful in retirement planning, says Michael Hayden of Legal & General. "Most probably, they will become basic rate taxpayers after they retire. If the bonds are cashed in then, they will have no tax liability.

Like most unit trusts, distribution bonds generally have Distribution funds could become the

key product for the

new millennium'

a 5 per cent spread between the buying and selling price of units, out of which commission is paid to financial advisers, and an annual management charge of around 1 per cent. They will also give the investor minimal life cover of 101 per cent of the original investment.

The minimum investment in a distribution bond is usually around £5,000. For larger amounts, investors will find that they will get a bigger allocation of units. Legal & General, for example, will invest 104 per cent for anyone prepared to place £30,000 or more into its

own distribution bond. Not to be outdone, a number

distribution hond each year, of unit trust management groups, including AXA Sun Life. Barclays, Framlington M&G. Newton, Prudential and Save & Prosper also offer funds that onerate in a similar way.

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Usually with a minimum investment of £500 or £1,000. they invest in a mix of fixed interest and equities. "looking to give a total return to investors; that is a rising income stream and capital growth." says Stirrup.

These unit trusts can be put into s PEP Up until 5 April, all the income and any gains will be tax free. After then, when PEPs come to an end, while any growth will be free of capital gains tax, any dividends paid on the equity element of the fund will be liable to the 10 per cent rate of advanced corporation tax, which rises to 20 per cent in 2004.

"Distribution funds could become the key product for the new millennium," says Roddy Kohn of Kohn Cougar, a leading independent financial adviser. "The combination of equities, fixed interest and gilts will bring positive benefits in an era of low inflation and low interest rates so long as the fund manager picks the right kind of stocks."

While corporate bonds are the answer for those investors who want to achieve an immediate high level of income, distribution bonds and their unit trust equivalents will suit those who don't want the risks of a pure equity investment, but who would like the prospect of a steadily rising income and capital growth.

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Royal & SunAlilance Oistribution (0151 238 3000)

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Check out with-profits, too

shares. Most investors have see the value of portfolios grow as the FTSE-100 index of the UK's top companies rose to record levels.

For investors in both distribution and with-profits bonds, the picture has been the same. Although the overall equity weighting of either bond means that gains are not as substantial too have shared in the bonanza.

What are the main differences are between distribution and with-profits bonds? Charles Timm, managing director at The With-Profits Shop, says: There are similarities between the two products. But also several differences. Some distribution bonds will have a higher proportion of their funds invested in index-linked gilts.

"Unlike distribution bonds, with-profits bonds attach a bonus every year which canot be taken away. Depending on your attitude to risk, with-profits bonds will deliver safer returns. "Distribution bond pay

income out of dividends. You may have to accept a lower income at first. Growth in income will hopefully come from growth in the value of the fund overall."

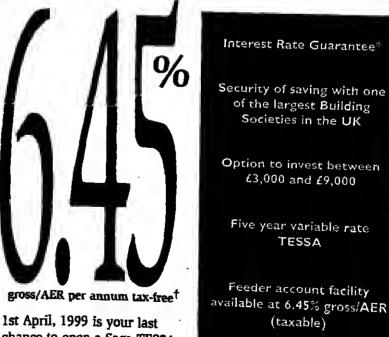
What makes distribution and with-profits bonds attractive is the way investment is spread between different classes of assets. Nervous savers who want some of that upside

with less of the risk could do worse than consider one of both forms of investment.

The ISA Shop, a firm of discount brokers, is about to publish a guide to distribution bonds. To reserve your copy, free to Independent readers, call 01777 839205.

The Independent has produced n free 24-page Guide to With-Profit: Bonds. Written by Nic Cicutti, the paper's personal finance editor, the guide examines the arguments for and against bonds and where to buy them. For your copy, sponsored by The With-Profits Bond Shop, call 0845 2711007. Or watch out for the coupon on page 4.

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of unit trust management groups, including AXA Sun Life, Barciays, Framington M&G. Newton, Prudential and Save & Prosper also offer funds that opetale in a similar way.

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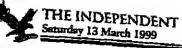


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How savers miss out on £125m

Selling an endowment before it matures can be much more profitable than surrendering it to the insurer. By Andy Couchman

ach year, 750,000 new endowment policies are started, many of them alongside a mortgage or to build up savings. They can represent a good way to save, especially if kept to their original 10 to 25-year term. But many are stopped early and a thriving business has now built up selling those policies on to investors.

Last year the market in traded endowment plans or TEPs grew by more than 30 per cent to an estimated £300m, says Tim Villiers, director of the Association of Policy Market Makers (APMM)

Even so, that represents less than a third of the policies that could be sold on to investors rather than surrendered to the insurer for cash.

The way in which TEPs work is that instead of cashing in their plan, the original owner approaches a TEP market maker and agrees a price to sell at. The APMM estimates that selling-on a policy adds around an extra 12.5 per cent to the cash value quoted by the insurance company, provided that the policy has been held for a number of years.

Alternatively, policies can be sold at auction. Foster & Cranfield holds weekly auctions throughout the country and last year sold £35m of second-hand policies. It charges vendors one third of any gain made over and above the policy's cash value as commission. Either way, for the potential seller, there is no downside - they simply get back more than they would from their insurance company.

Market makers offer potential buyers a range of policies. marked up by about 8 to 10 per cent, or policies can be bought at auction when no buyer's premium is charged. The investor takes over paying the premiums until maturity, when the proceeds are paid to them. "It's a safer way of investing than buying equities, while yielding more than gilts," according to Mr Villiers.

Not every policy is suitable to become a TEP Most market makers concentrate on the major 30 or so insurers and look for policies with 5-15 years left to run. That will rule out both newer policies and those from smaller insurers. But with policy surrenders now running at over £7bn a year, of which only film is tradable, that still means that an extra £125m could be received by selling a policy rather than simply cash-

Market makers also provide advice, help and paperwork to buyers and sellers and act as a buffer separating the two sides. Sellers could feel vulnerable if their identity were known, especially if large sums assured were payable on death, so two independent referees are appointed to check up periodically that the seller is still alive. If they have died, the buyer can get a windfall profit from the sum assured paid on death.

Provided that the policy is more than 10 years old, or three quarters of the original term if less, then no tax is payable on selling a policy. The buyer will not get any tax relief on the premiums they pay, and will be liable to capital gains tax when the policy matures or is sold on again. That needs to be taken into account when weighing up the likely investment return, as does the trend to reduce regular bonus rates.

Even so, Tim Villiers estimates that returns of around 10.5 per cent a year are possible. That is because after buying a TEP, each year a regular fixed-interest investments. or reversionary bonus is added to the sum assured payable on death or maturity and, once declared, cannot be taken away. As the policy approaches maturity so the guaranteed

return increases. What really determines the value on maturity though is the level of terminal bonus declared. This is usually a percentage of bonuses and is likely to be a much more volatile figure and could be cut or removed if investment conditions at maturity were poor. Any such moves would affect all policies maturing, not just those held by investors.

The real reason why TEPs work at all is that insurers have always favoured those customers who keep their policies going until maturity. Anyone having to stop before then has not had such a good deal. Part of the reason is that to get the highest returns, fund managers invest in equities but equity markets can be volatile and no fund manager wants to sell investments other than for purely investment reasons.

So a proportion of the fund will be kept in Government gilt-edged stocks and other

That way, the fund manager can better match their investments to the need to pay out on policies. As the number of policies cashed in cannot reliably be forecast, whereas those maturing can, so those who stop should not receive such good value as those that stay.

Cynics argue too that as the market pays more attention to maturity values than to surrender values, so insurers can afford to pay out less to the majority who cash in early to subsidise the minority whose plans run to maturity. TEPs provide the necessary buffer, increasing returns to sellers while providing a relatively safe investment for buyers.

To find out the name of three Association of Policy Market Makers members who buy or sell polices contact the APMM on 0171 739 3949. Alternatively, policies can be bought and sold at auction. The leading auction house, Foster & Cranfield, also an APMM member, is on 0171 608 1941

Andy Couchman is publishing editor of HealthCare Insurance Report

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100%	5.2%	8.4%	17.6%	38,3%	63.2%
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00%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	22.3%	41.0%
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Age shall not wither them

This Sunday, spoil your mum with a bright, funky, flower-printed gift. By Dominic Lutyens,

Not theirs, but their mums'. Such supermums still have a Fifties picture-book Image and come complete with gingham pinnies and nails perfectly manicured despite hours of pastry-pummelling. And the ideal gift for such a mum? Why, a card in misty pastels and a prima ballerinasized bouquet, of course! Now, no one can deny that flowers are delightful.

Trouble is, they're a tad ephemeral.
One alternative - and, no, we're not talking "Made in Taken" stastic blooms - is the latest vogue for photoprint floral motifs on everything from cushions and shower curtains to notepads and cards. They're not always cheap, but at least they'll last.

For designer Januar Trott, of London company New Renaissance, life is literally a bed of roses. On cotton or satin duvet covers, pillowcases, pyjamas and even a bath robe, she has printed recklessly scattered trompe

"It's based on the idea of someone leaving roses on your bed," muses Trott. "Floral fabrics are so classic, I wanted to do something different. I've made the roses look so realistic you want to pick them up."

Strong shadows cast by the roses make them look three-dimensional, as Milne isn't one to cater to shrinking

a day's release from Sold at London shops Graham & daisies, tulips or water lilies, on cush-Green and Estilo in Wimbledon Village, ions (from £50), stools (from £240), or by mail order direct from New Renaissance, the range currently comes in red roses on a white background only. (A single duvet cover costs £61, pillowcases, £12 and £15, and PJs, £65.) From May, they will also be available on pastel backgrounds, and Trott plans to branch out into other florals later in the year.

Paperchase has been bitten by the horticultural bug, too, with Mothering Sunday cards emblazoned with anemones and stargazer lilies (£1.50 each) or delptilatums, arms. Elles and birds of paradise. Paperchase also stocks notebooks strewn with photographic roses in purple and lilac (£8). Itching to squander a little more cash on your thoroughly deserving mum? Flump instead for a photo album with a ribbon tie (£27).

Should your mum find such offerings too redolent of the Queen Mum wafting round the Chelsea Flower Show, sprint instead to the cutely named London shop Puppy for funky hedlinen smothered with Warholesque, photoscreen-printed gerberas in 12 eye-popping colour combos. Made by Swedish designer Hagg Bweill, Puppy's kingsize duvet covers

cost £60, and pillowcases, £15 each. Glasgow-based textile designer Jan

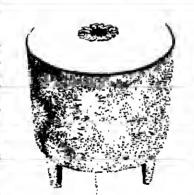
strand had been separately and

noticeably coated. "It felt like I was

wearing a wig," she complained.

or many, Mothering do the print's high-definition glisten-violets, either. She uses her photo-liftes, roses and Sunday still represents ing dewdrops and fluttering butterfiles. screen-printed fabrics, teeming with in North Africa. duvet covers (double £135) and

bedspreads (in silk and satin £300). Milne, whose textiles grace a New York sushi bar and a Las Vegas casino, has come up with a flower-power



mirror decorated with daisies (from £50). Recently, she has expanded her range, adding seed-packet-justrous laminated coffee-table tops and wall panels displaying a single, full-colour, blown-up bloom.

exuberant hlinds, wallpapers, table mats and coasters, featuring Gloriosa

lilies, roses and anemones, snapped "My aim is to ensure that ordinary

household objects don't go unnoticed," says Doran, It's a mission statement coaster, place mat or mug with a amply borne out by her blinds, which bear a single flower enlarged digitally

Watch out for Doran's next floral £11.99 for six coasters. shower curtain too (£39), and a foray: a range of similarly decorated crockery Originally a textile designer, Doran discovered that her customers were more smitten with her photographic coasters boasting voluptuous blooms, shot against hand-painted backgrounds in watermelon pink or turquoise. So she changed tack, and her wares, such as constant (521,50 for a box of six), sell in stores up and down the land, including Glasgow's Nancy Smillie, Manchester's Lloyd Davies,

and London's American Retro. For a more natural interior, designer Alice Maynell, of London Gooring company Harvey Maria, has just the thing for would-be Heidis: witty Meadow floor tiles - photos of lush grass and charming clusters of primula and dandelions.

"They were originally photographs of my parents' lawn. As you can imagine, they weren t too happy with the

name Meadow," she says. Finished in water-resistant PVC laminate, the tiles (235 per square £15 each, Puppy; rose-strewn Even more exotic are Ella Doran's yard) are great for hathrooms, cotton pyjamas, £65, New suberant hlinds. wallpapers, table kitchens and conservatories. Even Renaissance; lime-green and

clack about on them in kitten heels.

If none of these blossoms appeals, why not customise a pillowcase, snapshot of Mother's favourite sprig? Snappy Snaps has the technology. to triffid-like proportions (from £250). and charges £9.99 for a mug and

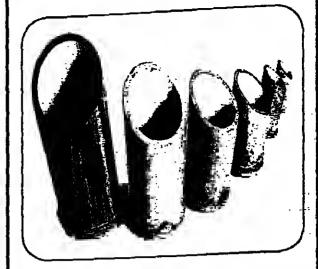
Of course, as time is running out, it's always tempting to fall back on an old-fashioned, common-or-garden bouquet. But the true bonus of photoprinted florals is that they're guaranteed to be hardy perennials.

Stockists: American Retro (0171-734 3477): Estilo (0151-945 (190); Graham & Green (0171-727 4594); Harvey Maria (0181-516 7788 🖾 , www. harveymaria.co.uk); Jan Milne (0141-445 5554 (1); Lloyd Davies (0161-832 3700); Nancy Smillie (0141-248 3874); New Renaissance (0171 24) 6502); Paperchase (0171-828 6458 for stockists, 0161-839 1500 (1); Puppy (0181-964 1547): Snappy Snaps (0181-741

Main picture: Meadow floor tiles. £35, Harvey Maria. Left, from top: Purple rose photo album, £12.50, Paperchase; pillowcases, murns who don't identify with Heidi yellow stool, £300, Jan Milne

SIX OF THE BEST

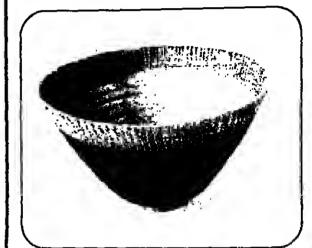
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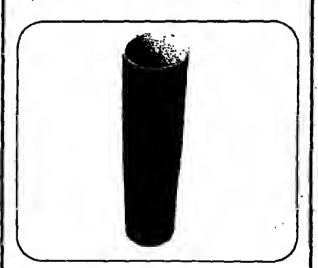
Oblique cut bamboo vases, leaf-green inside, 290 the set, Emily Readett-Bayley (0171-231



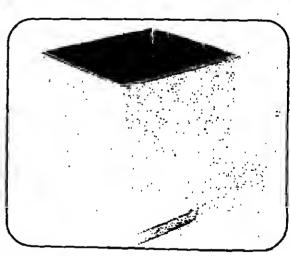
Iznik vase with a traditional 16th-century handpainted design of red tulips. £195, V&A Museum (01672 542 288 □)



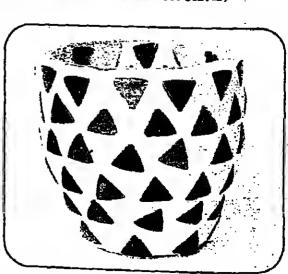
Spiga stoneware bowl with duck-egg-blue glazed interior, £135, Conran Collection (www.conrancollection.co.uk, 0171-399 0710)



Raku brown-black, cylinder vase with crackle glaze, £95, The Couran Shop (0171-589 7401)



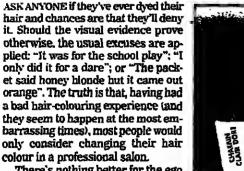
Ellis vase - handbrushed nickel over cast brass, £38, Grimes & Co (00 353 1 667 5627 🗷)



Glass bead mosaic vase, £5.20, available in blue/green or fruit-flavour Spangles colours from Nice Irma's By Post (0181-343 9766 🖼)

CHECK IT OUT

NEW HAIR COLOURINGS THAT JUST FADE AWAY



There's nothing better for the ego than a snazzy new hairstyle, however, and there's probably been a moment when you've thought "I'd love to go blonde" or "Wouldn't it be fun to be a redhead for the day". If you want the rewards without the commitment to months of desperately trying to grow your hair if it all goes horribly wrong, there are plenty of temporary tinting products to play with.

Popular temporary dyes include Clairol's 14 shades of Loving Care (£3.59, from Boots and Superdrug branches nationwide), which takes 20 minutes to apply and lasts for around six washes, and ammonia-free Movida



by Laboratoires Garnier, a range of 15 willing to experiment with "alterna- consuming staking up to five hours) to creme colourants that take 15 minutes to apply and cost £5.25 each (available from all major chemists nationwide). It lasts for about six weeks. Our tester was not impressed by Movida. After following the complicated instructions, the shade was darker than expected and left her hair feeling as though each

tive" products and often prefer more traditional - and more natural colourants. One of the most popular of these is the Body Shop's Henna Hair Colours (enquiries: 01903 731 500). These cost £2.60 per sachet and come Red Brown to Blonde, although shops currently only supply Brown. The sachets do work (although the colours can be quite subtle) and are inexpen-In the Nineties, people are more sive but they are very messy and time-

use, while the off-putting smell lasts for a few days afterwards.

The new hand-made Hot Hair Colours from Lush (01202 667 830 for nearest shop, 01202 668 545 (a) are also based on henna and give a lovely softin a range of four colours from Rich ness and shine. They are messy, but only take about an hour to work and smell deliciously of spicy clove buds. The three colours - Al Khanna (fiery red). Capella File d'Oro (rich redbrown), and Solanna (strawberry

blonde) are sold in deli-style tubs and cost £5.75 each. By far the most impressive and sim-

ple-to-use colourant, though, is by JF Lazartigue (0171-629 2250). The 10 colour-reflecting conditioners are hitech but they are gentle on your hair being ammonia- and peroxide-free. They fade out after four to six washes. Designed to work like make-up for the hair, you leave the conditioner on for up to 30 minutes to give the subtlest of shiny highlights and soft, springy hair. A tube of six applications costs £9.75 and a pair of protective gloves is included.

If your attempts to go naturally blonde go horribly wrong and you end up with a straw-like barnet, splash out on John Freida's Sheer Blonde products. The shampoos, conditioners and styling products (from £3.95 at Boots stores nationwide) are suitable for dyed and natural blondes, smell fresh and botanical, and really do tone down brassiness. The downside is that you need to keep using them to enjoy the effects and, at these prices, it could become an expensive habit.

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Lizzie Johnson

Johnson Banks Design

"The Anywayup Cup from V & A Marketing Ltd is

a great invention. It automatically seals between sips, so no leaks or spills even when shaken or dropped.

It has won several awards, including being named

by the Design Council as a Millennium Product, Another inspired idea which I have recently discovered

is the Dishwasher Basket. It takes life's lit-

houses them in a basket preventing loss,

clogged filters or glued-up heating ele-

ments. I would also like to nominate Tip-

tronic Transmission. Automatic cars are

handy when a crisis develops in the back

seat such as a dropped rattle, biscuit, box

of raisins, etc. With tiptronic transmission you

can just switch from manual to

automatic and back again while driving along

and allow yourself the luxury of a spare hand

whenever you need it, while still feeling like a

racing driver. Another favourite is Betty Crocker's

ocolate Fudge Brownie Mix. All you need in ad-

dition to the packet is some water, vegetable oil and a medium egg. They are divine and

our two-year-old son Joe (in the photo with me)

generation

is already an expert.

Whitworths Low Fat

but still really good

and you only need to add

Helen Storey

"I can think of a welldesigned product which is

currently keeping my 13-yearold son Lake very happy. It is the iMac. Luke has five "e-mail pals" from America, South Africa,

Malaysia and Singapore. His

fear-free of technology, and although I don't let him stay on it for long he is gaining instant knowledge of how other kids his age live their very different lives all around the world. The im-

mediacy of the medium

means that he can swap

interests and develop

technology and communication

an understanding of

which was impos-

Fashion Designer

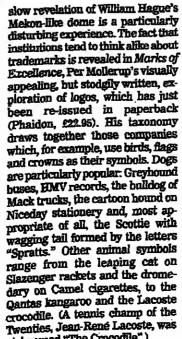
calorific,

tle necessities such as teats, lids, etc and

161 Ct 4t



Heraldic: EHR postbox logo



prad Elmtaryd Agumaryd. ed for from their heraldic origins,

porate redesign whose main out-come was to stiffen the backbone of

its previously italicised logo. The cost of such tinkering may

and the clock from Crosse & Blackwell. Fortunately, Tate & Lyle had the good sense not to tamper with its tins of golden syrup, which still bear the quotation "Out of the strong came forth sweetness" (Judges 12:6) illustrated by a decaying lion corpse and swarm of bees. Though much modified, the Camp Coffee label still boasts its tartan-clan defender of the Raj. In retrospect, however, the US detergents giant Procter & Gam-ble may wish it had updated its "man in the moon" logo, which first ap-peared in 1886, before a gaggle of paranoid conspiracy-hunters de-nounced the trademark as a sign of corporate satanism. Mollerup notes that the Shell

ernising the label, Colman's quietly re-introduced a horned bull's head

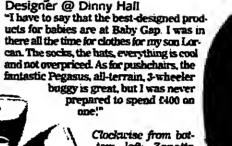
scarcely changed since 1898. The founding Michelin brothers got the idea of Bibendum from a stack of tyres at a trade show. Drawn by the poster artist O'Galop, this cheery endomorph continues to humanise the image of the tyre company in a humorous way. But I doubt if the woman whom I once saw being chased down Brixton High Street by a man in a Bibendum costume feels very warmly towards the trademark.

why we've lost the green gherkin and "57 varieties" from Heinz products

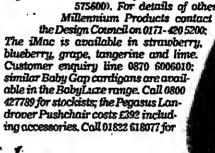
on its mustard a few years ago.

The Michelin man, one of the most famous of all trademarks, has











details or see www.allterrain.co.uk. The Mothercare Manhatlan 3-wheeler pushchair retails at £199, customer enquiries 01923 210210; Sacco bean bags by Zanotta are available from Coexistence as before. Not pictured: Frubes were designed by an all-female team and are currently available from supermarkets; the Eat Me, Drink Me range of tableware is available from Urban Outfitters, London W11 (call 0171-761 1001)

All done for the love of logos

Companies take trademarks very seriously - just look at how much they spend on them. By Chris Hirst

AT THEIR best, logos are welcome friends, like the sight of the London Transport roundel indicating a tube station on a dark and dubious street. Virtually unchanged since 1933, Edward Johnston's design classic will make its latest appearance on the six new underground stations of the £3.2bn Jubilee Line extension. On the other hand, logos can

arouse intense annoyance. The high streets of Britain were scarcely enhanced when the Midland Bank replaced its familiar gryphon with the red and white lozenge of its current owner, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. This spiky motif was adapted from HSBC's thering headquarters in Hong king, Sir Norman Foster's design, tich aroused the disapproval of the island's feng shui experts, is an unlikely symbol of fiscal prudence since it is said to be the most ex-

Pensive building ever constructed. Understandably, institutions Place great importance on symbols of corporate identity. Unfortunately, they often get it wrong. Few of BT's millions of customers can have warmed to BT's blue and red piper agn. This curiously fey figure, known colloquially as "man drinking a yard of ale", was a central element in the company's £50m redesign in 1991. This wispy, stylised figure is curiously similar to the logos of the hain UK political parties. At a disance, the stylised red rose of New Labour could be mistaken for the red and blue Tory torch, which in turn esembles the flame-like wings of the Lib Dems' yellow bird symbol. Going by their web-sites, however, we can see that the real logos of the parties are the leaders, whose features



LIZZIE JOHNSON

Managing Director, Coexistence

Having consulted her daughter, Rachel Bull, Mary named three invaluable additions to their lives: Zan-

otta's Scangai Clothes Stand can be used as a fun

alternative to a wardrobe and the Sacco bean bag, also by Zanotta, is a safe and attractive piece of fur-

niture for children's bedrooms. Seven-year-old

her stylish childhood.

Designer, Pure

Rachel also nominated Baleri Italia's Tato,

Fielding Banks

Contemporary Design

"Eat Me, Drink Me" range of tableware,

available from Urban Outlitters. At the bottom

of these transparent, perspex utensils is printed the

perfect incentive for young children to finish their meals, and Orianna's adult friends all seem to love

Designer, Dragon International
"Lego has always been my favourite (I loved it when

I was a child) for the following reasons; it is brilliant

for imaginative and creative play; easy to store; a

very acceptable reasonably-priced present, cleverly targeted with different levels of complexity for a

range of ages from five to teens (Duplo fits the

younger age group); appeals to both boys and girls, and keeps (most) children oc-

cupied for hours. I have also just dis-

Deborah Carter

Orianna thinks that the most perfectly

igned product for small children is the

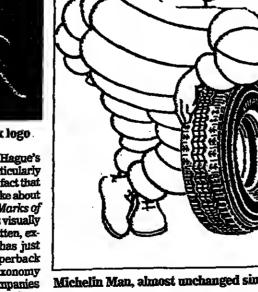
Tatino and Tatone floor cushions (egg-

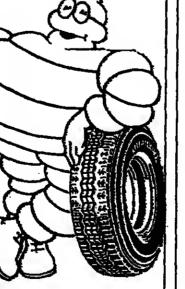
shaped, ball-shaped and flat, respec-

tively), which have seen her through

Mary Wiggin

nicknamed "The Crocodile") Logos in the form of handwriting include Coca-Cola, Ford and Harrods.





Baby, we have designs on you

In the post-pram age, it's hard to know what accessories to buy to make life with a small child that little bit easier. Six top

women designers wax lyrical about the products which they found made child-rearing a positive pleasure. By Katy Guest

Frubes, Fruit Fromage Frais in tubes, introduced by Yoplait to the UK from France a few years ago,

which provide real dairy goodness in a portable, convenient and fun format. They are a perfect belance

of child appeal and mum reassurance, a good so-

lution for the hunch box and easily stored in the fridge

The Renault Twingo (sadly not yet available in the

UK), although not specifically designed with

children in mind, is wonderful as a car

for a mum because: it is convenient to park, comfortable to sit in and

has wide doors for getting the

kids/shopping/luggage in and out easily; it looks stylish and in-

trinsically French, with a sense

of humour and great attention

to detail; it is also very eco-

nomical to run and feels safe and

chuckle over and over again!"

Finally, I mustn't forget the Spot

the Dog story books. The Spot char-acter is friendly and loveable with a touch

of mischief. They offer a great balance of sim-plicity, charm and fun – a pleasure to read and easy

for children and adults to enjoy. The "flaps" offer a surprise element which used to make my children

reliable to drive about in.

ORIANNA FILEDING BANKS

(and freezable too).

Michelin Man, almost unchanged since 1898; the Sheli scallop

Mollerup notes that the Paul Smith signature which appears on the designer's label is not what appears on Mr Smith's cheques. But he fails to point out that arguably the most famous "signature" of all, the Walt Disney logo, was not the work of the eponymous film producer. Companies whose logos make striking use of initials include Volkswaname commemorates the initials of

n, McDonalds, Rolls-Royce, and the burgeoning retail chain whose its Swedish founder, Ingmar Kam-Some trademarks have not stray-

such as the EUR monogram on Royal Mail postboxes or the BP shield. What Mollerup fails to add is thet BP spent £1m researching its logo in 1989. After much heartsearching, the company took the less-than-earthshaking decision to italicise the two initials. The revamp cost around £100m. In contrast, the BBC recently spent 25m on a cor-

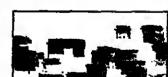
seem preposterous, but Mollerup, himself a design consultant, insists that "every design programme

needs to be adjusted to meet chang-ing conditions". Presumably, that's collection of some 6.5 million dried specimens ranging from teasel seed to opium poppy, and all manner of pods, roots, barks, twigs and other plant bits. They were gathered from all round the world on some of the most famous plant-hunting

expeditions of the last two centuries. Each jar was labelled in brown ink and italic script with its contents, the date and its provenance. Tens of thousands of jars formed the serve collection; many had lived at the garden's museum since it opened in 1857. Three years ago, however, there was a crisis. Kew's three museums designed by Decimus Burton had fallen into a dismal

scallop "would hardly be recognised as a shell if the company did not carry the name." In fact, this carefully guarded symbol looks more like a sun-rise in its latest formulation. But such simplification is not always the rule. After mod-

would be no room for dull old duplicates. The jars were therefore offered to every museum in Britain, but no one wanted or more to the point - had room for them. Kew would like to have kept them as a collection, but with the work on the jars' building about to begin, it was forced to sell them to the highest bidder. This turned out to be Lassco, the London



The Kew jars

DESIGN LINES

THIS IS the story of how some old hand-blown glass jars became this season's hottest

The jars in question started life as storage containers in Kew Gardens' herbarium - a

state, and even Museum No 1

had been closed for 10 years.

The award of a £1.4m Heritage

Lottery Fund grant to repair it

but for the reserve collection it

museum was to be kept with its

historic furnishings intact, the

other two were to be refitted

and decked with bright,

interactive displays; there

Architectural Salvage Supply

was met with great rejoicing,

was a death knell. While one

design accessory.

Company. The original 9ft-high Decimus Burton display cases were similarly dispatched. The samples were removed from the specimen jars and the precise wording of their labels was catalogued

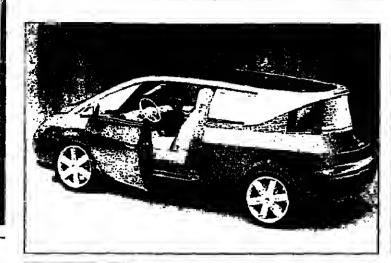
At which point enter Maureen Docherty, whose Knightsbridge mews shop, Egg. purveys a mix of beautifully made clothes in ravishing fabrics, studio ceramics and designer objects. Maureen wandered into Lassco one day, and emerged three hours later the possessor of several hundred hauntingly empty jars.

Hence next week's exhibition. Maureen enthuses about the beauty of these botanic mementoes, with their cork lids intact and poignant original hand- and typewritten labels. They are as singular as one-off pieces of studio glass or pottery, and a tenth of the price (from £15 to £40). "I think they're mad at Kew," she says cheerfully. "They should have kept them all and sold them in their own shop." And there's the rub. Such historic relies may be of little interest to museums, but they make wonderfully fashionable and curious objects of desire.

ANNABEL FREYBERG "Kew Jars" runs 16 to 30 March at Egg. 36 Kinnerton Street, London SW1X 8ES

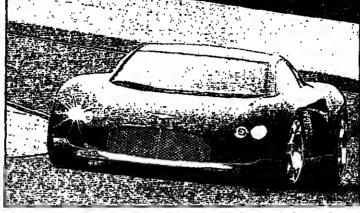
(0171-235 9315)

The Geneva Motor Show offers glimpses of the future. By John Simister









Clockwise from top left: Bentley's 8.0-litre Hunaudières with 16-cylinder engine producing 623bhp; Vauxhall's angled speedster, made of bonded-aluminium; Citroën's curvy C6 concept car; and the Renault Avantime, which will be out next March

very motor show cars. Often they are just showingoff exercises to test the world's reaction to new ideas. But at the Geoeva Motor Show, which opeoed last Tuesday, concepts from Opel/Vauxhall, Renault and Toyota pointed to real cars for the next millennium.

Alternatively, there was the Bentley. Imagine a mid-engined supercar, something like a Lamborghini Diablo, with a metal-meshed cut-out in the front shaped like a Sentley's radiator grille. It's the Beotley Hunaudieres, named after the restaurant half-way down the Mulsanne Straight at the Le Mans race track, scene of famous Bentley race victories in the late Twenties.

Volkswagen, which now owns Bentley, believes the marque should race at Le Mans again. So are the Germans messing around with precious British beritage? No. says Rolls-Royce and Bentley product of 2.2 litres and 147bhp. development director Rob Oldaker.

"The first ideas came before VW ownership, and last July we talked with Volkswagen about moving it forward. It was the right thing to do

The design might be Bentleyflavoured, and the 8.0-litre, 16cylinder, 623hhp engine might be Beotley-tuned for effortless thrust rather than race-car pace, but the car was built in Germany using the chassis of another VW Group product-the Diablo. And the W16 engine is four-thirds of the W12 unit seen in Volkswagen's own supercar study a year ago. The Hunaudières is an intriguing idea, but the notion of an engine behind the occupants seems deeply odd in a Bentley.

And so to relative reality. Lotus reinvented the stripped-out, purepleasure sports car with the Elise. and two hig-name makers are now chasing Lotus. Opel, or Vauxhall as it's called bere, is even basing its angular Speedster on the Elise's booded-aluminium chassis, but power comes from a Vauxhall engine

The driving experience won't be

oeering chief Peter Hanenberger promises he "won't put in too much comfort". Vauxhall's first sportster since the Twenties goes on sale next July. VW-owned Seat's interpretation of the idea, styled mainly by Julian Thomson who also shaped the Elise. is less certain for production, but the will is there.

Opei/Vauxhail also showed "Concept A", a cuboid with a rounded nose and a price less than a Corsa's. This van-like vehicle with four fold-flat seats uses the doors and centre section from GM-affiliate Suzuki's Wagon-R. "This is the first time in Europe that anyone has done such a car," says Hanenberger. "If we had just made a smaller Corsa, then we might not gain so many sales." It will be launched next spring.

Toyota's cute Yaris supermini has just gone on sale, and Geneva saw a mini-MPV version called Verso. It's slightly larger than Concept A, and Toyota hasn't yet decided whether to sell it here. Also rooted

as extreme as the Elise's, but engi- Avantime. Imagine an Espace coupé with a hi-tech but discreet interior, and you'll get the idea. Made by Matra, like the Espace, the Avantime is Renault's alternative to big. prestigious German saloons. You can buy

something similar from next March. Citroen's C6 signalled further confidence in the once-moribund notion of a French prestige car. It's a study for a possible XM or Xantia replacement, which looks individualistically Citroen without resort to pastiche. "Retro is a dead-end street," declares design chief Art Blakeslee. It is a beautiful, curvy thing. So are Aston Martin's V12engined DB7 Vantage and Ferrari's aluminium-structured, 360 Modena, proper production cars and Geneva debutantes both.

At the other aesthetic extreme is Mitsubishi's Pajero Pinin, a sort of mini-Shogun part-styled by Pininfarina, which will build it in Italy. It comes either togged-up for off-roading or smoothed-off for urban crawling. Someone once said something in MPVs, but intended as a new con- about form following function, but cept in grand touring, is the Renault this isn't quite what was meant.

Its stunning looks, superb handling and amazing technology makes the Mercedes S-class unbeatable. By John Simister

WHERE DO you begin with a car such as the new Mercedes-Benz S-class? We'll begin by saying what it is not: a dinosaur, a behemoth, a fat car for fat cats oblivious to any notions of planet-friendliness.

This new one, which has just gone on sale in the UK, is no eco-sylph, true, but it's a lot less gross than the last one. And this new leanness makes it much more appealing because it looks so much sleeker, so much more like a normal car instead of the transport of a Third-World dictator. The new S is lighter, too, by up to 300kg depending on the version. Getting rid of the double-glazing has helped. Yet it has more room inside.

The smooth, round, slightly wedgey shape is the work of British designer Steve Mattin, who trained at Coventry University. He says that he wanted to get away from monumental dimensions, while visually stretching the car. The result is a big car with the proportions of a smaller one.

Mercedes-Benz has another reason for shunning the monumental route. There is no V12 version of the new S-class. because a giant limousine with the resurrected name of Maybach, an ancient German maker of vast cars, is planned. It is the company's answer to rivals BMW and VW-Audi, which between them own the Rolls-

Royce and Bentley marques. Today's S-class, then, is a return to the way S-classes used to be: big, but not steroidal. However, if you ordered the ultimate S, a long-wheelbase S500L with a V8 engine and a £74,040 starting price, and loaded it with all the options, you would have an unbelievable showcase of technology.

Make and model:

Price: £49,140.

4,000rpm.

Mercedes-Benz S320.

Engine: 3,199cc, V6, 18 valves,

224bhp at 5,600rpm, 110bhp at

Transmission: five-speed auto

Performance: 149mph, 0-60 in

gearbox, rear-wheel drive.

8.0 seconds, 20-25mpg.

For example, not only would

The new Mercedes S-class is leaner and lighter

ROAD TEST

the front seats have built-in fans to cool you through perforations in the leather, they would also have a built-in massaging service which inflates and deflates different parts of the seat in turn. And, from the summer, there will be a "Keyless Go" system which reads a smart card and unlocks the car as you touch the handle. Once inside, touch the gear selector and the engine starts.

Or try "Distronic" cruise control, which automatically keeps you a safe distance from the car in front unless you want to pass it.

But if you think you can manage without all this, except maybe some parts of the computer and stereo and a merely normal dose of electronic sybaritism, you can enjoy the opposite end of S-class travel. The S280, a short-chassis version with a 2.8-litre V6 engine, is yours for £43,640, and an \$320 for £49,140. And, if you're likely to motor away from motorways and city centres. they give the most pleasing drive of all. Size, or the lack of it, still matters, and the smallest versions of the new, smaller Sclasses do things their higger relatives cannot

Can a mere 3.2-litre V6 cope

with moving such a beast? It can, rather well, although the 2.8 might struggle. The V6 is a creamy engine, delivering creamy progress through a creamily-shifting automatic transmission That transmission features a "one-touch" manual mode, similar to the Tiptronictype manual overrides seen on other German cars, hut instead of pushing the lever forwards or pulling it back, the Mercedes system has you nudge it to one side or the other. It's completely counter-intuitive, which is surprising in a car otherwise so logically conceived.

Fortunately it's also unnecessary, even when you're tackling a fast but bendy road. And that is where the S320. more than the higger S-classes excels. All credit to the airsprung electronic suspension and the super-rigid body structure: It's as agile as a BMW 3-series, changing direction with an ease astonishing in something so apparently hulky.

And your passengers luxuriating in their individuallycontrolled climate zones, will barely notice your efforts. cocooned as they are by wood and leather and soothing curves and a pervasive aura of last-forever solidity, not to mention eight airbags.

No other full-on huxury car feels quite as complete, as integrated, as harmonious as the big Benz. The technology is impressive, but the way it looks and feels is what makes it such a desirable object, that makes it the best saloon car in the world. DaimlerChrysler, as the parent company is now called, expects to have half of the world's luxury-car sales to itself. That night follows day is a similarly

SPECIFICATIONS

RIVALS

Audi A8 3.7: £43,995. Mercedes contains lots of aluminium, but the Audi is virtually made of it. Lithe, elegant and recently revised, it has not achieved the credibility it really

deserves.

BWW 7351: £44,960. Beautifully built car which is high on gizmology, but the big BMW is strangely short of personality: Jaguar XJS 3.2: £36,405.

Britain's contribution seems a bargain in this company, but lacks space and modernity. It's a great drive, though.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

MOTORING

FAX: 0171 293 2505

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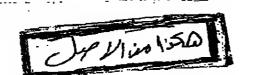
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THE WEEK IN REVIEW **EXCELLENT** GOOD OK CRITICAL VIEW **OVERVIEW** 'A rechnical marvel, enlivened by a smart į is Gary Ross's directorial script, great visual jokes and a handful of fantastic performances... But," wrote Anthony Quinn, "Its thinking is confused and gers (Re faintly patronising." "Technically superb, but dazed and confused," decided the Daily Mitherspoon and Tobey Maguire) transported to Mail, while the Financial Times deemed it: a wholesome black-and-"Pleasant but predictable." "An imaginative, white Fifties sitcom. THE PLAY SPE! The strength of Speer lies in the The Austrian actor Klaus scrupulous, magnetic performances, Both actors are supremely relaxed," noted Paul Maria Brandauer directs and stars in Esther Taylor. "Skilfully directed by Brandauer, Speer remains a compelling drama about Vilar's biographical study one of the most enigmatic figures in of Albert Speer, Hitler's architect and minister 20th-century history," intoned The Daily Telegraph. Both the author and Brandauer "Blur's sixth album is a grower," declared Andy Gill: "On first hearing it sounds rough Essex mockney Damon Albarn bemoans the and unfocused, but with each subsequent encounter its character becomes more demise of his relationship clearly defined." "How is Noel Gallagher. with Elastica's Justine going to top this?" Inquired The Guardian ann in Blur's sbth album, 13, featuring the adding, This album shows Blur to be more hit single 'Tender'. inventive, artistic and daring than thair . . . "It offers inexhaustible interest to the eye. The Tate Gallery hosts a It can be contemplated endlessly. And if retrospective of the US you're content for that to be what painting Abstract Expression does, you can hardly ask for more," artist Jackson Pollock considered Tom Lubbock. "A thrilling experience," sang The Spectator, "Pollock aka "Jack the Dripper appears embroiled in a life-or-death after his famous struggle to convey his urgent vision of the paintines. THE TV PROGRAMME ITN EARLY EVENING NEWS "The Innovations consisted of a new, more spacious look to the studio, and rotating Having bid an emotional computer graphics, with the kind of farewell to the flagship rotating globe that the satirical TV News at Ten, Trevor programme The Day Today poked fun at reported Robert Hanks, adding, "Apart McDonald introduces

ITV's re-vamped news

programmes at 6:30pm

DANCE

RICHARD ALSTON

DANCE COMPANY

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

SOUTH BANK CENTRE

LONDON

eotly lyrical duets, and the final one

exemplifies his smooth manipulation

plicate pose of one body identically

folded over the other. But Alston's writ-

ing to the fugues (which Mozart de-

rived from Bach) also has a graphic

freshness, so that when he brings on

the cast's four women he shows them

as a tight, unexpected frieze, their

backs turned to the audience. Clev-

erly he choreographs overlaps, caus-

ing the dance to continue in the

and later at 11pm.

A careful ripple of a storm silences between the musical paslook right in last year's Waltzes in Dissages. The surprise effect of this order, to Brahms's soog cycle, Liebeslieder-Walzer. Christopher jolts you into seeing the movement even more acutely. Tudor breaks away from his rela-The musical delight of live players tionship with a woman for the freedom and singers confinues with the rest of symbolised by Martin Lawrence's the programme. Alston's 1994 Moveman-bird. The threading-through of

> sense of prolixity which can somesky's piano arrangement of his original hallet score and, for the first times hlight Alston's pieces. time in Loodon, puts the piano cen-Watching an Alstoo programme I of slotting shapes, closing with a dutre stage. Richard Casey's 10 fingers find myself redoubling my admiration are enough to cope, the dancers cirfor him, but as the evening procle round him and Christopher Tudor gresses he offers me diminishing releaps and rolls, an echo of Fokine's turns. Perhaps it is hecause he tragic puppet. But what really makes articulates his choreographic cootrasts with such restraint, perhaps bethe piece? The music or the movement? The performing style, too softcause the pacing is so smooth and language so tastefully beautiful. I edged for the jagged rhythms, weakens the choreography's impact. know I am watching different things, The dancers' deliberately gentle hut it all tends to feel the same.

a theme helps the piece avoid the



NADINE MEISNER Alston's 'Slow Airs Almost All of Them' offers diminishing returns

So good they named it twice

outlines, avoiding muscular tension,

ments from Petrushka takes Stravin-

from that it was business as usual." Those waiting for the rot to set in will. I'm afraid,

THE "FOREIGN film" screening on Wednesday night was not a broad Italian comedy, or a nasty French farce. It was The Acid House, based on Irvine Welsh's short stories of Scottish lowlife, replete with American subtitles. "Slag" was still "slag" in this American-speaking translation. But "watching Coronation Street" read as "watching TV", and "wee bird" appeared on the screen as "girlfriend". The Acid House opened the Sixth Annual New York Underground Film Festival, and before the screening ended, Manhattanites in the darkened theatre could be heard repeating the film's phras-

RICHARD ALSTON is a choreograph-

er's choreographer. He creates a

plotless fabric of dance, with coo-

summately crafted movement that

dips and weaves on the energy of the

music and sections the air with bold

curves and lines. His facility is like an

engine, chugging out an inexhaustible

variety of images. Yet within this

enormous range, the cootrasts and

modulations are understated, filtered

through the stylisation of his language.

An emotional storm for Richard Al-

Slow Airs Almost All of Them is his

oew piece for the Richard Alston

Dance Company. Using Mozart's Six

Adagios and Fugues for String Trio

(played by the group stingfactory on

stage), he considers the adagios to be

the heart of the music. These allow

him to deploy his predilection i....

stoo is, for me, a careful ripple.

"You stoopid slag," said one fellow in a booming New York accent. You daft sow!" replied his friend. True to its name, the Under-

ground Festival is larded with pustulant 16mm shorts (Bite My Boohonkus), wacky documentaries (portrait of an obese champion hotdog eater), and videos such as 10 Beers in 10 Minutes (promoted as "Andy Warhol meets Animal House"). The Acid House was the slickest, attended by the festival's usual ageing youth-cultured crowd. in regulation black and, of course, with grey circles beneath the eyes.

These cineastes, primed for four days of films that range from underedited to unedited, might probably have suffered The Acid House untranslated. Other US audiences probably won't be as willing, though.

"It would be impossible to release it without subtitles," says Emily Russo, of the film's American distributor, Zeitgeist Films. "There's

insects at the margins of the forest.

especially ants. In Mapping the

World (World Service, Wednesday)

an American scientist explained the

march of ants across the Earth's

surface, how ants in their millions

leave chemical trails to help them

Another American scientist talked

find their way, and how ants there-

almost poetically of "the conscious-

way even the simplest organisms

always know where they're going.

For there are insects everywhere,

NEW YORK DIARY



ALISSA QUART

a lot of slang in it that was translated into American slang. Honestly, I didn't know what 'ken' and 'bairn' meant without the translation. And the film uses a lot of strong, objectionable lan-guage – the subtitling really puts that

language out there."
Artisan Entertainment, the distripberability of the kitchen sink - an inverse of America's passion for butor of Ken Loach's My Name is Shakespeare in Love's voices - ordi-Joe, took a similar tack, translating nary New York viewers of My Name that film's supposedly intractable Glaswegian dialogue for US viewers. is Joe didn't seem to need the titles. After The Acid House, the festi-(Loach's 1990 film Riff-Raff was also subtitled.) US critics had said the film was of a "genre that's hard on Amer-

val's audience beaded out of the theatre into a cold, clear evening, and perhaps a late-night festival party at the Irvine-Welsh-appropriate East ican ears" and harder to listen to than reading French subtitles. The New Village pharmacy theme bar, Bar-York Times went so far as to thank macy. They carried festival programmes that urged them to forgo Artisan for subtitles that hroke the the "mollycoddling shopping-mall mentality" of independent film. "See you in Hell!" the notes exalted. "burr-and-brogue barrier". According to Bing Woung, marketing director of CPV, a New-York-based subtitling and dubbing company, his

"I was happy for those subtitles," said one festival-goer. "Oh, I didn't re-ally need them," said another. "But I had read the book."

"Never trust anything called 'underground'," mumbled a third.

AT THE height of the Mau Mau emergency in Kenya in the Fifties, one of the most dreaded sounds was the call of the reed-bark born. Its tones were enough to invoke the sacred oaths sworn by some Kikuyu farm workers, and obliged them to kill their white masters. The Archive Hour: Death in the Bush (Radio 4, Saturday) gave an account of the terror that lurked after dark when so-called "oathed gangs" secretly

operated against the settlers. On isolated estates, lone Englishwomen defended themselves with revolvers as they tried to listen to the fore never get lost. BBC World Service. In Kikuyu villages, loval employees received "punishment" visits late at night. Meanwhile. Nairobi politicians tried to find peace in their time.

The story was told with the use of Nick Rankin's programme about recorded material carefully juxta- hiological mapping demonstrated erally less accurate.

posed, so that the voices of long-dead THE WEEK Mau Mau leaders spoke beside those of the retired policemen who'd spent years trying to round them up. Ali that was missing from the menacing atmosphere was the stridulation of



IN RADIO

MAGNUS MILLS

that blue whales can navigate the entire Atlantic Ocean through sound oess of bacteria", a reference to the resonation, while honey-bees are capable of calibrating the sun, moon and stars. Next week he moves on to buman beings, whose maps are gen-

If you place two strangers in a wilderness, then more than likely they will be drawn towards one another. Whether this could be to their mutual advantage, or not, was the subject of In the Solitude of the Cotton Fields (Radio 3, Sunday), a play about two men making a deal in a deserted warehouse. Conditioos seem perfect: the dealer has something to sell, and the client has something he needs. Yet however close they coma to completing their business, they are prevented from doing so by distrust and vanity. Instead, they circle and peck at each other like birds in the darkness.

company has also subtitled Irish TV

and industrial videos for Americans

fast and the phrases are unclear"

Despite these claims of the indeci-

"because the accented speech can be

Russell Dixon and Gerard Mc-Sorley gave taut performances in this radio version of Bernard-Marie Koltes's masterpiece, which concluded that commerce is the most melancholic of things.

There was still more gloom in the Meridian Feature - Los Angeles: City of Mirrors (World Service, Monday). Christopher Frayling journeyed through the paranoid city asking what had gone wrong in this paradise of wide open spaces and sunshine. "People choose to be bad," suggested the film director Carl Franklin. "The garbage is fantastic in Beverly Hills," countered the film director Paul Mazursky. Another film director, Lawrence Kasdan, talked of a sort of net that connects everybody together, so that no one can get out. Frayling didn't talk only to film directors, though. There was also a guy who had a big cowboy voice and spoke of Los Angeles as an oasis city. He sounded as though he'd just arrived by horse.

"Kevin Start," he said, introducing himself. "California State Librarian."

EXIT POLL

BY FIONA STURGES

ON VIEW

Pleasantville is out on

general release.

Speer is at the

Almeida Theatre.

London.NT until 27

and enquines, call

0171-359 4404

March. For bookings

Blur's 13 (Food) will

be available in record

Jackson Pollock is at

the Tate Gallery until

6 June For bookings

You can watch the

TIN Early Evening

News at 6.30pm and

the ITV Nightly News.

at 11pm. Both ,

programmes are on

Monday to Friday

and enquiries call

0171-887-8000

shops on Monday

minutes

certificate 15, 124

DEADLY

OUR VIEW

Ross's feature debut is a

technical masterpiece and

makes a playful spool of

The controlled formality of

more than matched by

meticulous Speer

handedly carries

With 13, Blur have

status and come up

their most inventive

and courageous

album to date.

almost single-

the play.

Brandauer, whose eerily

Sven Eric Bechtoli's Bauer is:

Albam may have been unlucky

in love, but his loss is our gain

transcended their Britpop

Pollowing the trajectory of

extraordinary spectacle which explodes before your very eyes

Apart from a few cosmetic

extraordinary sight of lirevor McDonald walking

improvements and the

around, the new.

programme is .

indistinguishable

Pollock's career is an

as he abandons the

favour of the "drip"

paint brush in

its moral standpoint

is occasionally

confused and

- condescending

American family values, though

POOR

ingenious fable," wrote Time Out. "An.

executed, although if you've seen The

down pat," noted The Guardian. "Its

Truman Show, you'll have the paradoxes

concepts are just slightly undigested and

shoe-homed in," rumbled The Big Issue.

one of the few living men capable of

himself must be applauded for having hired

performing beside that fascinating model

and somehow upstaging it," sang The

Times. "I struggled to keep my mind on

it and even... to stay awake," confessed

pronounced it: "Riveong but misleading".

erstwhile rivals could ever hope to be.":

inventive," trilled The Times. "A baffling

betrayal of Blur's genius," whinged the

Daily Mail. While 13 reveals a band

Its demeanour," wrote the NME.

operating at new levels of creativity, some

hard-but-fair pruning would have improved

world, gasped The Times, but according to

the Doily Mail. "When you have seen one

massive canvas of splosh, dribble and

prepared for the best and the worse of Pollock," warned The Guardian, while the

Daily Telegraph admitted: The first couple

have to wait a while yet," chirped The Dally

Telegraph. "Same theme music, jazzed up.

presenter and reporter," snapped The Daily

a blt. Same facuous backchat between

Mirror. The Spectator noted, bright

a set full of virtual visual aids and

presumably some real ones too".

good-looking people wandering around

smear, you have seen them all." "Be

of galleries are heavy going."

"Constantly surprising and extraordinarily

the Financial Times. The Daily Mail

parallel-dimension concept is larkily

ingenious fable," echoed The Times. "The

VISUAL ARTS JACKSON POLLOCK TATE GALLERY, LONDON

JACK COLLINS have seen before. I loved the idea of

pattern that you could never cop There is such tremendous detail these paintings, and the sheer amount of work is very impressive

PATRICK KIKER loved it. I was particularly good towards th end of his life,

Plymouth It is so di

period", when he left splatter art. I enjoy unconscious imagery, which was a big theme for him, and I thought et these works look him to a new

14, student, Dorset 'It's very different from what i usually think of as art; it's simple, playful and

he gave the paintings, because saw different things in the pictu

70. actor. Londor superb. I could get lost in his aintings. The xhibition mentions Policck's



excellent response when so dscapes – he said: "I am the dscape." I think this is very trua When you look at his paintings yo feel as if part of him is right in there. I also found if inte

ARTS DIARY

IF YOU watch children's television this morning and are stunned by its inanity, then you have a new champion. She is Anne Fine, the children's novelist. She told last weekend's Culture Wars conference that she wanted "to nail the old canard that telly encourages reading. This is a marketing device. Children would read more books if they didn't spend 18 bours a week vegetating in

front of the telly.

Worst of all was "the threebour tide of noisy, senseless drivel that is Saturdaymorning TV, with its crass questions to prompt a phonein". She spoke from experience, having been a guest several times. On each occasion she was told she had received more calls than any other guest. She asked the producers why, then, they didn't have a programme

about book authors. No reply. The children's writer Helen Cresswell recalled adapting E Nesbit's The Phoenix and the Carpet for TV. Penguin Books asked ber to write a novelisation of it, "But there aiready is one," she replied. "It's by E Nesbit – and you publish it." They replied that it was too difficult for children. Did she slam the phone down? No. She started writing. A girl has to eat. And she does, she says, "feel quite guilty about It".

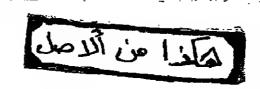
I WENT to

the Jackson Pollock retrospective at the Tate armed with the audio guide narrated by Paul Gambaccini. My copy had a high-pitched, speeded-up Gambaccini. It sent me round the different periods of Pollock at breakneck speed. "Oh dear," said a Tate official when I returned the cassette, "we're not meant to give out that tape." But they should. It is the perfect audio adjunct to Abstract Expressionism.

THERE ARE two contenders for this week's Artspeak Award. Jane Horrocks must be nominated, for saying that she is giving up the theatre after playing Lady Macbeth because the play "emotionally highlights the bad things that you're going through in life". It was, of course, the production in which Miss Horrocks had to urinate on stage every night, so maybe it was the combined strain on soul and hladder that drove her to the edge.

But she is pipped at the post by Absa, the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts. On Thursday it changed its name to Arts & Business. "Both the new name and the ideotity have been generously donated by Interbrand Newell and Sorrell," it said.

We can all get in on this philanthropic artspeak I bereby donate the name "arts diary" to this column.



HOT SPOT

BERMONDSEY, SOUTH LONDON

A real riverside community

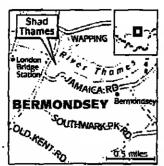
ter's glittering headquarters for the Greater London Authority effectively ushers in a new era for Bermondsey.

Instead of leather goods, spices, coffee and tea stored in hrick warehouses, mayors and assorted hureaucrats will be ensconced in a £20m riverside property with glass lifts, a glazed façade, and meeting Anchor Brewery is still seeking rooms with views overlooking

These days the Thames is for watching, not working. and Bermondsey and its many warehouses are well on the way to becoming overwhelmingly residential.

Some residential pioneers set up home in SE1 as far back as the Seventies, according to Tom Marshall of Cluttons Daniel Smith, but the area only recently started "huzzing with architecturally pleasing residential and commercial buildings, trendy restaurants, and museums and galleries, such as the OXO Tower. Zandra Rhodes's Fashion Museum. Conran's Gastrodome and the Tate Bankside".

Warehouse conversions and luxury newbuilds dominate the riverside area along Shad Thames and extending from Tower Bridge eastward to St Saviour's Dock. The multi-level



penthouse atop the listed a huver for £3.95m or a tenant for £3,500 per week.

Flats typically cost one-tenth of that selling price. Elsewhere in Bermondsey, other trendy new or converted flats vie for attention in a mixed bag that includes a few period homes, school and church conversions, and live-work units in premises that once housed tanners and other artisans and craftspeople.

New developments tend to offer parking, hi-tech security, roof terraces and leisure and fitness facilities. Nicholson's massive Butler's & Colonial Wharf warehouse conversion includes new flats and town houses on a site featuring underground parking and a

private courtyard. Bermondsey is no longer the preserve of City financiers: "With this area now more established and the Jubilee Line coming, creatives and media who work in the West End are

moving in. Access was previously too difficult for them," says Carl Williams of Chesterton's. Bermondsey is also attracting *empty nesters buying flats for their college age children, and executives wanting a weekend London base".

Williams notes that most huyers "want a stylish flat ready for immediate occupancy. so a 10-year-old flat neglected by tenant occupiers and needing doing up will cost less".

The least expensive properties are council flats in buildings which have been improved by the council, according to Roger Smith, of Michael Kalmar estate agents: "Devon Mansions. for example, is probably 50 per cent privately owned now.

Many owners are investors." Matthew Page watched Bermondsey change for the hetter during his nine years with es-tate agents Alex Neil: "The council estates have completely changed, and the sense that they are dangerous is now a big myth. Bermondsey is a real community with friendly people and some fantastic characters."

Although some properties cost £1m-plus, "I do not think there will be huge jumps in prices," says Kalmar's Smith. Chesterton's Carl Williams notes that "since the new year, prices are starting to edge up again, but huyer and vendor ex-



ROBERT LIEBMAN Bermondsey - a real community with some fascinating characters

THREE TO VIEW REASONS TO RENT

IT LOOKS more like than a suburban block of flats, but Queensmere House is just a short walk from the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet



Club in Wimbledon. The Gothic building has been converted into eight apartments, all accessed via a panelled entrance hall with black-and-white marble flooring. They have fitted kitchens and marble bathrooms, and all reception

rooms are in the front wings.

The six remaining flats have two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Prices start at £2,000 per month, unfurnished. Details from Chestertons on 0181-879 7922.

RENTING NEEDN'T be horing if you choose something like this loft apartment in the Old Aeroworks in Hatton Street. London NW8. The two-bedroom anartment is one of five in a converted

industrial huilding, which was constructed for the Palmer Tyre Company in the Twenties. The firm went on to make gun turrets, tyres and brakes for Spitfire and Hurricane fighter planes and Wellington and

Lancaster bombers during the Second World War. This two-floor flat has two bathrooms, a reception room with wooden floors and high windows with sculptured metal shutters, and a spiral staircase

eading up to the bedroom. To be let unfurpished at £580 a week; details from Knight Frank on 0171-431 8686.

THIS GRADE II listed farmhouse in East Bergholt. Suffolk, is three miles from Manningtree railway station (60 minutes from Liverpool Street) so it could be the

perfect spot to rent if you are trying to decide whether or not to make a permanent move out of London.

The 17th-century, four-bedroom Rookery Farm is being let with carpets and curtains included, and some flexibility on the existing furniture. It has a fitted kitchen with a two-oven gas Aga stove, and a drawingroom with an ingle-nook fireplace and French windows leading to the garden.

The farm has a private drive, and there is also a walled rose garden. The house is for rent at £1,500 per month. Details are available from Strutt & Parker on

THE LOW-DOWN

Band A and £1,573 for Band H.

Prices and Properties: Think square feet rather than number of rooms. Chesterton's notes that riverside flats can sell for £400 per square foot. Away from the river, newbuild commands £275 per square foot, and you can save an additional £25 per square foot with a two or three-year old flat in Boss House, Shell apartments of 1,000 square feet in Tyers Gateway sell

for £170-£190,000. Bermondsey Exchange has larger units (1,180-1.777 square feet) at £260-£295,000. Berkeley's Saffron Wharf prices range from £435,000 to £615,000, and its Jacobs Island, Mill Street starts at £129,500. Two-bedroom ex-council flats on the Dickens Estate sell for £65,000 and can be let for £200 per week. Shell versus finished: A 750-

square-foot flat with balcony in Lantern House, Bermondsey Street sells for £145,000 as a shell and £170,000 finished. Transport: The Jubilee Line station will be at the junction of Jamaica Road and Keeton's Road, in zone 2. London Bridge is zone 1. The Council Is Managing: Southwark council tax is £524 for

Shopping and Dining: Chesterton's Carl Williams notes that "the ground floors of many new buildings have restaurants or other retail outlets". In general, the area's restaurants (or their restaurateurs) are more famous

than numerous. Estate Agents: Alex Neil (0171-234 0288); Cluttons Daniel Smith (0171-407 3669); Michael Kalmar

(0171-403 0600); Chesterton's (0171-357 7999), Butler's & Colonial Wharf show apartment (07000 426566); selling agents are De Groot Collis (0171-235 8090) and FDP Savills (0171-940 6500), Lynda Clark and Amanda Heaps of specialist agency Trading Spaces handle loft conversions and "weird, wonderful or unusual properties" (0171-277 4994).

How to get a winning design on your home

As part of this year's Architect Week, you can get professional advice about your abode and make a charity donation for just £10. By Robert Liebman

passed you by, watch out for it this year, especially the Architect in the House scheme. For a tenner, an architect gives you advice concern-

ing your home, in your home. For the cost of 10 lottery lickets. you get professional feedback, the architect gets to work indoors, and the dough goes to Shelter, the charity for the homeless. You simultaneously promote several good causes, not least your own.

Architect Week, which is held in November, features exhibitions and events nationwide. Last year, more than 1,200 practices throughout the UK took part in Architect in the House, and the donations to Shelter amounted to more than £13,000.

More than a 1,000 homeowners exploited the scheme, including Chris and Ding Jenkins, who bought their three-hedroom first-floor maisonette in Mortlake shortly

IF LAST year's Architect Week before the birth of their first child, Ethan, two years ago.

In the course of 90 minutes, local architect Tzena James suggested effective ways of dealing with dull floorboards, cracked plaster, a rickety garden stairway, and numerous other items. The Jenkins got 10 quid's worth of advice within the first five seconds, and the rest was gravy.

One problem, however, proved intractable. Their kitchen is small and, worse, is next to the flat's only lavatory and, worse still, kitchen and bathroom each open directly into the compact dining room. Initially, the Jenkins thought that, although expensive, building an en suite bedroom in the loft was doubly attractive: they could remove the lavatory from the kitchen area and expand the kitchen into the liberated space.

"Local estate agents deterred us." Mr Jenkins explains. "They advised us that when we came to sell the flat

we would need a first-floor bathroom anyway." With Tzena James they discussed several options for moving the bathroom to another firstfloor location. The best solution. which entailed moving it to the far end of the dining room, was one to

which no one really warmed. Other homeowners who took advantage of Architect in the House confirm that tight space is a nearuniversal problem. A couple with four young children recently hought a three-bedroom house in Essex and have £40,000 to eke out more space. But Potters Bar-based architect John Chandler broke the news that "after VAT and incidentals, they really have less than £35,000. And they can't decide between a loft conversion or a room extension as they

don't know how long they will stay." Mr Chandler also visited a Cheshunt couple with two sons and one room extension who wanted a mond, saw one homeowner whose

second extension: "Instead of a separate additional room, I showed them how they could build over the current extension and rearrange the existing rooms," he says.

Another couple in Hertfordshire wanted some peace after giving a room to each of their two teenage sons. They also wanted the darker, colder end of their house to he hrighter. "We came up with a range of solutions using pyramidal glass in the kitchen which allowed room on one side for a self-contained flat for their sons," says Cambridge-based Jonathan Ellis-Miller.

He also advised homeowners in King's Lynn, Norfolk, whose 19thcentury listed mill had been refurbished in the Sixties, and looked it. The owners wanted professional advice to ensure a truly Victorian renovation. Architect David Natas of the Culpin Partnership in Rich-

children were soon to leave the way that plumbers or electricians nest, and another with recent fledglings. The former "intended to split the property into three separate dwellings to let, and she had sorted out the spatial requirements," says Mr Natas. "But her plans contravened building regulations, and she might need a feasibility study and a

basic set of drawings to get funding." He also notes that architectural drawings "should also reveal whether her plans could realise the kind of rental income she envis-

The second occupiers were a retired couple "who decided to install central heating, and wanted an architect to manage the project and ensure that the installation of the pipework didn't ruin the original Edwardian features," he reports.

Many architects are available for between £35 and £50 per hour, and because they are not essential in the

usually are, many homeowners begrudge what appears to be an unnecessary extra expense. For many owners, though, the

savings are false, aesthetically as well as economically. Architects can ensure that the building and decoration budget is well spent, and their advice sometimes leads to savings which more than recoup their fees.

Mr Chandler advised one client that their idea for a loft "did not represent a good return in terms of price per square foot".

Many homeowners skimp on design advice, commission a huilder directly, and then have to live with the mediocrity that they have paid for. One family involved in this scheme had purchased two large, high-back sofas shortly before the architect's visit. The sofas overwhelmed the room and the highback design was contrary to what their low windows cried out for A different sofa and an armchair would have been more appropriate for the individual setting.

For the Jenkins, the home visit had a delayed benefit. After mulling over Ms James' words for a few days, they decided that it was better to ditch the estate agent's advice, convert the loft as originally planned, and enjoy an enlarged kitchen in a loo-free zone.

Architects bring in the light to your home and let you see things in an entirely new way. This year, it could be you.

This year's Architect Week is in November Contacts: Royal Institute of British Architects. 0171-580 5533; John Chandler, 01707 875904; Culpin Partnership. 0181-948 4281; Ellis-Miller Architects, 01223 362648; Tzena James, 0181-940 4068

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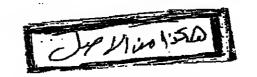
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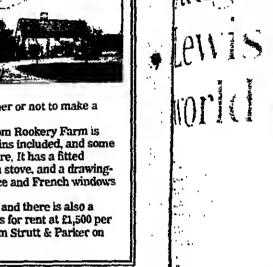
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